Grand Adventure: Scotland & the Emerald Isle

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

WEATHER & DESTINATION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Time Zone: Ireland is 5 hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Time Zone (EST) and 6 hours ahead of U.S. Central Time Zone (CST).

Weather: Average High/Low

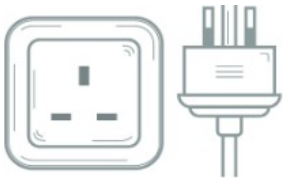
City	Spring	Summer
Glasgow	59°F/43°F	66°F/55°F
Belfast	60°F/44°F	66°F/55°F
Dublin	59°F/45°F	68°F/52°F

Packing: Bags with wheels are not suitable as a carry-on bag in Europe where motorcoaches have very limited space. The European Union does not allow these bags in the passenger section of the motorcoach. Soft, smaller carry-on bags like backpacks, day bags and tote bags are better alternatives. *Packing Note:* Washcloths are not standard in European hotels. Feel free to bring them with you. If you use them regularly, packing a washcloth or bringing a packet of facial cleanser wipes is a good idea.

Currency: The unit of currency in Scotland and Northern Ireland is the British Pound. The unit of currency in Ireland is the Euro. Currency exchange rates fluctuate on a daily basis. A helpful website for referencing current rates is www.oanda.com. You may want to obtain a small amount of cash before you travel so that you have some to start your trip. Credit cards and bank cards are the easiest form of payment and ATMs are readily available. Make sure you have a PIN number for your cards. Mastercard and VISA are the most widely accepted cards with American Express being accepted in many places as well. Please leave your Discover card home as it is not an accepted form of payment in Europe. Be sure to contact your bank and credit card companies before you travel to prevent a freeze on your account when you begin to make purchases overseas.

Accommodations: Although there are chain hotels in the UK & Europe, standardized hotel rooms that we enjoy in the US & Canada are the exception rather than the rule. Due to the fact that hotels are often located in older buildings, small and irregularly sized rooms in buildings that are bit maze-like are normal. Rooms with twin beds very close together, queen beds made by connecting two twin beds, hand-held shower heads, and elevators the size of broom closets are all quite normal in the UK and Europe, even in luxury hotels. Some properties may not have air-conditioning.

Electrical Current: The electric current in Ireland is 220 volts, 50 cycles. Electric outlets and plugs are different from those in North America. An adapter is required to plug your device into an electrical socket. However, a voltage converter is only required if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Check the voltage of any device that you are thinking of bringing. If the tag on your device lists 110-220 volts, then you will not need a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department, and electronics stores.



Driver/Guide Gratuities: On this tour, you will have a driver/guide who will give commentary about the areas we visit as well as handle the luggage and drive the coach. It is customary to provide discretionary gratuity for a job well done at the end of the tour. Gratuities are to be given individually in an envelope at the end of the tour. The recommended amount is 8 Euros per person per day.

Meal On Your Own – Expenses and Gratuities: For the meals not included with the tour, you can expect to spend the equivalent of $15 to $45 USD per person per day. The suggested gratuity for wait staff serving non-included meals is approximately 10%. It is not necessary to tip for takeaway (fast food), cafeteria-style meals, or drinks served in a pub. Some restaurants and pubs may automatically add a gratuity that may or may not be given directly to the server. When

in doubt, ask the server.

Public Facilities: Outside of your hotel room some of the restrooms will have pay toilets or attendants collecting at the door. You may wish to have local coins available for these situations. All tap water is safe to drink. The hot and cold water faucets may be the opposite of North America and hot water can be extremely hot.

