



TRAVEL OBSERVATIONS

THOUGHTFUL TRIPS FOR DISCERNING TRAVELERS, BY ANNA HARRISON

Celtic Filmscapes 2016 Itinerary



DAY 1

ARRIVE EDINBURGH (2 NIGHTS)

Welcome to Scotland's capital city Edinburgh. This evening enjoy a Welcome Reception and become acquainted with your Travel Director and travel companions. Welcome Reception

Hotel Name: Franz Josef Glacier Hotel

City: Edinburgh

DAY 2

EDINBURGH SIGHTSEEING AND FREE TIME

This morning, your Local Specialist takes you on a cinematic sightseeing tour of this enchanting city, including a visit to Edinburgh Castle, perched high above the city. See the Royal Mile where Frodo escapes down a hotel drainpipe leaving behind Sixsmith in 'Cloud Atlas' (2013), Princes Street where Renton and Spud 'choose life' in 'Trainspotting' (1996), the elegant Palace of Holyroodhouse in the shadow of Arthur's Seat and the new Scottish Parliament building. Hear about the humble beginnings of J.K. Rowling who went on to write the Harry Potter stories. Tonight, why not enjoy an optional evening of traditional song, dance and Scottish fare? During the Edinburgh Festival, tickets to the Edinburgh Tattoo in the castle grounds are included. Full Breakfast

DAY 3

EDINBURGH – FALKLAND – ST. ANDREWS – LAGGAN

This morning travel to the town of Falkland which was made famous in the 'Outlander' (2014) television series as being the home of the Covenanter Hotel which is the location of Mrs Bairds B&B. You will also view the Falkland Paris Church which was renamed Dalneigh Parish Church and see the Bruce Fountain. Next visit the historic town of St. Andrews where the running scene along the beach from 'Chariots of Fire' (1981) was filmed. Later arrive at your scenic Highland hotel. Full Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel Name: Banff Park Lodge

City: Edinburgh

DAY 4

LAGGAN – CAIRNGORM NATIONAL PARK – NEWTONMORE – CULLODEN – SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS (2 NIGHTS)

Travel through the Cairngorms National Park. In 'The Dark Knight Rises' (2012) the villain Bane's dramatic escape from one aircraft to another was filmed here. Stop at the Highland Folk Museum to discover more about life in the highlands and see where inspiration was gained for some of the scenes from Outlander. At Culloden view the battlefield of one of the most brutal battles in 1746 featuring Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Jacobites. Over 1200 men perished in just over one hour. Visit the award-winning visitor centre and see where fictional characters Claire and Jamie from Outlander said their goodbyes. Full Breakfast

Hotel Name: Quaaout Lodge

City: Laggan

DAY 5

EXCURSION TO EILEAN DONAN CASTLE AND THE ISLE OF SKYE

Travel through the dramatic scenery of the Scottish Highlands before arriving at Eilean Donan Castle. Enjoy a visit of the castle made famous in the James Bond film 'The World is Not Enough' (1999) featuring Pierce Brosnan. Travel on a bridge over the sea to Skye for a short drive to Broadford. It was on the Isle of Skye where parts of movies such as director Ridley Scott's 'Prometheus' (2012) and the actor Michael Fassbender's 'Macbeth' (2015) were filmed. Return to your hotel for dinner. Full Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel Name:

City:

DAY 6

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS – LOCH NESS – GLENCOE – LOCH LOMOND – GLASGOW AREA (EAST KILBRIDE)

This morning travel alongside the famed Loch Ness and see if you can spot Nessie. Stop for a photo opportunity of the ruins of picturesque Urquhart Castle. Traverse through the majestic Valley of the Weeping at Glencoe. It was here that many scenes from James Bond's 'Skyfall' (2012) were filmed as well as parts of the Mel Gibson movie 'Braveheart' (1995). At Loch Lomond hear stories of the Scottish outlaw Rob Roy MacGregor before arriving in Glasgow for an orientation tour. Full Breakfast

Hotel Name: Inn at Laurel Point

City: Scottish Highlands

DAY 7

GLASGOW AREA (EAST KILBRIDE) – BELFAST

Travel south through spectacular Ayrshire countryside before boarding your ferry from Cairnryan in Scotland to Larne. A short drive brings you to vibrant Belfast the capital of Northern Ireland. During your city tour with a Local Specialist see City Hall, Queen's University and the Titanic Quarter and hear about some of the films that have been made in the city. Full Breakfast

Hotel Name:

City: Dublin

DAY 8

BELFAST – GIANT'S CAUSEWAY – LONDONDERRY/DERRY

Travel to the north coast and visit the Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage site, made up of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns. Parts of the American horror movie 'Dracula Untold' (2014) was filmed in this area. Stop to see the Dark Hedges where Beech trees either side of a small road have reached up and across to each other, becoming heavily intertwined to create a natural arched tunnel where shadow and light plays through entwined branches. It was here that scenes from the television series 'Game of Thrones' were filmed. In Londonderry/Derry your Local Specialist will show you the city walls as well as the murals of the Bogside, which depict the troubles of Northern Ireland. Full Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel Name: Downhill House Hotel

City: Belfast

DAY 9

LONDONDERRY/DERRY – GAME OF THRONES EXPERIENCE IN CASTLE WARD – DUBLIN (BLACKROCK)

Travel across Northern Ireland and stop in County Down at Castle Ward. Castle Ward's historic farmyard is the location of Winterfell, the backdrop for the series pilot and much of season one. It's also where you will find the Whispering Wood and key scenes including Robb Stark's Camp, the Baelor battle and when Brienne confronts the Stark men. A replica of the Winterfell Castle archery range movie set has been masterfully recreated in the Winterfell Castle courtyard where the filming originally took place. Dress up in character costumes from the show, tour the movie set, stand exactly where 'Jon Snow', 'Robb and Bran Stark' stood and enjoy the thrill of firing live arrows. Later travel to your Authentic Accommodation located near in a small fishing village on the outskirts of Dublin. Full Breakfast

Hotel Name: Omni Parker House Hotel

City:

DAY 10

DUBLIN (BLACKROCK) – DUBLIN SIGHTSEEING AND FREE TIME – DUBLIN AIRPORT

Discover the filmscapes of Dublin on a sightseeing tour with a Local Specialist. The city has been used as a backdrop for historic films such as 'Michael Collins' (1996), 'Once' (2006), 'Intermission' (2003), 'The Commitments' (1991), 'Veronica Guerin' (2003), 'My Left Foot' (1989) and 'The Dead' (1987). See Trinity College, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Phoenix Park and the stately Georgian Squares. Visit Kilmainham Gaol which features in prison scenes such as that in 'In the Name of the Father' (1994), about the wrongfully convicted Guilford Four for the IRA bombing on two pubs.

It stars Daniel Day Lewis and there is a fantastic visitor experience steeped in Irish political history. There is free time to explore the city before checking into your conveniently located Dublin Airport hotel. Tonight enjoy a memorable Be My Guest Farewell Dinner with your companions and Travel Director – the perfect end to your Celtic Filmscapes trip. Full Breakfast, Be My Guest Dining

Hotel Name: Delta Fredericton

City:

DAY 11

DEPART DUBLIN

Bid a fond farewell to your fellow travellers at the end of this cinematic experience. Your hotel is located at Dublin Airport so that you can check-in at your convenience for your flight home. Full Breakfast

Hotel Name:

City: