

ST. ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH
12 DAY PERFORMANCE TOUR TO IRELAND & SCOTLAND
JULY 27 – AUGUST 7, 2024
(ET #42-24)

Preliminary Itinerary – November 21, 2022

COVID-19 Requirements: Restrictions and requirements for all destinations are subject to change at any time prior to departure or during your trip and you may be denied entry/boarding and returned home at your expense. Travel Insurance options are available and are highly recommended to minimize financial loss. More details can be found at <https://travel.gc.ca> and <https://www.ellisontravel.com/sherpa>

Ellison Travel & Tours is committed to planning travel for our clients based on the [#SAFETRAVELS](#) protocols set out by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC). For details visit www.ellisontravel.com/safetravels

Note: It is the responsibility of all participants to be in possession of the correct documentation needed to meet the entry requirements of your destination and return to Canada. Failure to do so will result in participants being denied entry/boarding and returned home at the expense of the individual. Please check entry and transit requirements before you make a deposit. You may be required to travel to another city or province to obtain the correct documents.

Restrictions and requirements for all destinations, as well as re-entry requirements for Canada, are subject to change at any time.

~ **Canadian Citizens require a valid passport.** Authorities at your destination require that Canadian passports are valid for **3 months** beyond your scheduled return date (**November 7, 2023**). Ellison Travel & Tours recommends passports are valid for a minimum 6 months beyond your return date (**February 7, 2024**).

~ **Non-Canadian travellers:** Please contact Ellison Travel & Tours by filling in this request form <https://www.ellisontravel.com/documentation>. We will provide information on the entry and transit and/or visa requirements. It is the responsibility of the traveller to have the correct travel documents for your trip.

****NEW – European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) will be launched in November 2023. Many travellers including Canadian passport holders will be required to complete the ETIAS visa waiver in order to travel to the Schengen Zone (European Union). Further details will be provided as they become available****

Day 1 – Thursday July 25, 2024 (Inflight)

D/M

- arrive at St. Andrew's United Church to meet **airport transfer coach** and load luggage Group Leader to review the Health Screening Form included in the travel documents with the group. Please advise your group leader if you are experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms outlined at any time throughout the tour.
- board coach and depart for **Toronto's Pearson International Airport**
- a motorcoach safety briefing including the use of seat belts when available, will be completed prior to departure (always use seat belts when available and locate the emergency exits if your coach changes during your tour)

- NOTE:
- upon arrival in Toronto, you will be met by your **Ellison Tours Tour Manager** who will remain with the group for the duration of the tour
 - unload luggage and proceed to the **airline ticket counter** to check in for your trans-Atlantic flight (*groups on international routes are required to check in 3 hours prior to your scheduled departure time*)

- evening departure for **Dublin Ireland** (connections possible)
- Inflight meal service: **hot dinner** (*timing of meal service is left to the discretion of the airline*)

Day 2 – Friday July 26, 2024 (Arrival in Dublin and on to Limerick – Republic of Ireland)

M/D

- **breakfast** to be served just prior to landing
- early to mid-morning arrival in **Dublin, Ireland**, clear customs and collect your luggage (*set your watches to local time*)
- meet your **motorcoach and driver/guide** in front of the Terminal to load luggage followed by departure for **Limerick** (*estimated drive time: 2 ½ - 3 hours depending on traffic*)
- NOTE** - a motorcoach safety briefing including the use of seat belts when available, will be completed prior to departure (always use seat belts when available and locate the emergency exits if your coach changes during your tour)
- early afternoon in **Limerick**, where you will have time purchase lunch and stretch your legs as you explore the town centre
- this compact old town is known for the medieval-era St. Mary’s Cathedral and St. John’s Square, which is lined with Georgian townhouses and standing along the River Shannon, the 13th-century King John’s Castle is one of the city’s most recognizable sites
- 3:00pm - arrive at your **centrally located hotel** and check in for **2 nights’ accommodation** – settle into your rooms and get ready for dinner
- **3 course group dinner** including **beverage service** is included tonight in the hotel dining room – welcome to Ireland
- after dinner, suggest an early night after a long couple of travel days

Day 3 – Saturday July 27, 2024 (Limerick - The Cliffs of Moher)

B

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- **attend/participate** in **Sunday Morning Services** at nearby church
- time to purchase lunch before setting out this afternoon
- board coach and depart for the **Cliffs of Moher**, the famed sea cliffs located at the southwestern edge of the Burren region in County Clare, Ireland
- upon arrival at the **Visitors Centre** set out on foot to explore the dramatic coastline - the official Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk actually runs for 18 km, from Hag's Head to Doolin, passing by the Visitor Centre and O'Brien's Tower, with good viewing throughout, but subject to rain or sea or fog.
- late afternoon return to return to **Limerick**
- the remainder of the afternoon is yours to spend as you wish – dinner is on your own tonight at a restaurant of your choosing

Day 4 – Sunday July 28, 2024–(To Killarney)

B/D

- **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check out and loading of the coach
- board coach and depart for **Killarney** – this morning’s drive features some of the highlights of the famed “Ring of Kerry”
- midday arrival in **Kenmare** where you will have time to purchase lunch and explore the town centre
- after lunch continue your tour of “the Ring” including Molls Gap and the shoreline of Lake of Killarney to Muckross Park in Killarney National Park
- arrive **Killarney** and **check into your hotel** for a **1 night’s accommodation**
- enjoy **3 course group dinner** at your hotel
- Performance** - **1 hour evening concert performance** featuring **The St. Andrews United Church Choir** in Killarney to be pursued (St. Mary’s Church of Ireland or similar)
- at the conclusion of your performance return to your hotel for the night
- **3 course group dinner** including **beverage service** is included tonight in the hotel dining room –

Day 5 – Monday July 29, 2024 (to Dublin)

B

- **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check out and loading of the coach
- board your coach and depart for **Blarney Castle**
- enjoy a visit to **Blarney Castle** which was built nearly 600 years ago by one of Ireland's greatest Chieftans, Cormac MacCarthy – you may even want to line up to kiss the Blarney Stone
- opportunity to **shop at the Blarney Woollen Mills** and purchase lunch in the Mill restaurant offering local produce, traditional favorites, and dessert or at Christy's Bar serving light bites at the Blarney Woollen Mills
- board your coach and depart for **Midleton**, home of **The Old Jameson Distillery**
- enjoy a **75 minute guided tour** of the **Old Jameson Distillery** where you will visit some of the key buildings including the warehouses and the Micro-Distillery – concluding with a sample tasting of the product
- board coaches and continue on to **Rock of Cashel**
- arrive at the **Rock of Cashel** - the seat of kings and medieval bishops for 900 years which flourished until the early 17th century - enjoy a guided tour
- at the conclusion of your tour board your coach and depart for **Dublin**
- evening arrival in Dublin at your **centrally located hotel** where you will check in for **2 nights accommodation**
- dinner is on your own this evening followed by an evening to spend as you wish

Day 6 – Tuesday July 30, 2024 (Dublin)

B/D

- **buffet breakfast** included at the hotel
- meet a **professional step on guide** for a **panoramic tour of Dublin** (highlights of your tour may include Georgian Dublin District, Leinster House, The Old Parliament Building, Temple Bar District and St. Stephen's Green
- your tour will conclude at **The Guinness Storehouse** where you will enjoy a **guided tour**
- experience the history, heart and soul of Ireland's most iconic beer -explore the story of Guinness across the seven floors of our iconic building, before taking in the 360 views of Dublin city from Gravity Bar.
- time to purchase lunch in Dublin's City Centre before departing for Christchurch Cathedral
- free time in the city centre to shop and grab a few snacks; you may wish to visit Trinity College and Book of Kells (you may experience long line ups during high season) or you may wish to visit the EPIC Irish Emigration Museum opened in May 2016 in the city centre
- Performance - arrangements for a **1 hour performance** featuring the **St. Andrews United Church Choir** to be pursued
- enjoy a **Traditional Irish Evening** at the **Merry Ploughboy Pub** featuring a **3 course dinner featuring Irish Fare** and an evening of **Irish Music and Dancing**

Day 7 – Wednesday July 31, 2024 (to Belfast, Northern Ireland)

B / D

- **buffet breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check out and loading of the coach
- board coach and depart Dublin for **Belfast, Northern Ireland**
- midmorning arrival in Belfast at **Donegall Square** where you will meet a **professional step on guide** and commence a **panoramic city tour of Belfast** – hear of the city's past history , street art history, and the wonderful architecture that makes if such a beautiful place highlights include Belfast City Hall and The Cathedral Quarter
- at the conclusion of your tour purchase lunch and take time to explore the city centre
- Pay an afternoon visit to **Titanic Belfast** - located beside the *Titanic* Slipways, the Harland & Wolff Drawing Offices and Hamilton Graving Dock – the very place where *Titanic* was designed, built and launched, Titanic Belfast tells the story of *Titanic* from her conception, through her construction and launch, to her maiden voyage and subsequent place in history.

- following your visit board coach and depart for your hotel
- late afternoon arrival at your **hotel** where you will check in for **1 nights' accommodation**
- **3 course group dinner with beverage service** at the hotel or nearby restaurant evening free to enjoy the Belfast night life (pub night life starts at 9:00pm)

Day 8 – Thursday August 1, 2024(to Glasgow, Scotland) B

- **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check out and loading of the coach
- NOTE** - packed breakfast may be required to accommodate a VERY early ferry departure from Belfast
- board coach and depart for **The Belfast Ferry Terminal**
- upon arrival at The Belfast Ferry Terminal collect your luggage and proceed inside to the **Check in Counter** as **foot passengers**
- board the **Stena Ferry Lines Ferry** and depart **Belfast** for **Cairnryan, Scotland** (*estimated crossing time: 2 hours and 22 minutes*)
- arrive at the Ferry Terminal in **Cairnryan, Scotland** – disembark and meet a **motorcoach and driver** in front of the Ferry Terminal to load luggage
- board coach and depart Cairnryan for **Culzean Castle & Country Park**
- arrive Culzean Castle & Country Park where you can enjoy a **self- guided visit of the Castle**
- purchase lunch at one of the cafes situated throughout the park with some free time to explore the Country Park
- Performance** - arrangements for a **1 hour performance** at Culzean Castle & Country Park featuring the **St. Andrew's United Church Choir** to be pursued
- board your coach and depart for **Glasgow**, Scotland's biggest city, located on the River Clyde in Scotland's western Lowlands
- afternoon arrival in Glasgow at your **hotel** where you will check in for **1 night's accommodation**
- dinner is on your own tonight followed by an evening to spend as you wish

Day 9 – Friday August 2, 2024 (to Edinburgh)

B/D

- **breakfast** at the hotel followed by check out and loading of the coach
- board coach and depart for central **Glasgow**, famed for its Victorian and Art Nouveau architecture, a rich legacy of the city's 18th–20th-century prosperity due to trade and shipbuilding.
- meet a **professional step on guide** in Central Glasgow for a **½ day coach and walking tour** – highlights include the magnificent Glasgow Cathedral and charming Necropolis, as well as the 450-year-old Tennent Brewery! You'll see the oldest house in Glasgow, Provand's Lordship and learn some of the many secrets hidden in the city's streets – like why Hollywood comes to Glasgow to film New York City scenes!
- your tour will conclude in a centrally located area where you will be able to purchase lunch and enjoy some independent sightseeing and shopping time
- mid-afternoon departure for **Edinburgh** (*estimated drive time: 1 ½ hours*)
- late afternoon arrival in Edinburgh at your **hotel** where you will check in for a **3 night stay**
- **3 course dinner with beverage service** included tonight

Day 10 – Saturday August 3, 2024 (Edinburgh)

B/D

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- board your coach and depart for **Central Edinburgh**

- meet a **professional step on guide** for a **2 hour walking tour of the Old Town of Edinburgh** – highlights of your tour may include the Mercat Cross, Greyfriars Kirk and graveyard, the George Heriot School and Edinburgh Castle (from the outside)
- your tour will conclude at **St. Giles Cathedral**
- Performance **1 hour concert performance** featuring the **St. Andrews United Church Choir** will be pursued at St. Giles Cathedral – as part of their lunch time concert series
- following your performance visit the **Royal Mile & Princes Street** to purchase lunch and shop (your guide will have suggestions for you on where to purchase lunch and recommendations for shopping)
- late afternoon return to your hotel to get ready for this evening’s event
- 6:00pm - **3 course dinner with beverage service** at a local restaurant
- 7:45pm - at the conclusion of dinner proceed to the **Edinburgh Castle Esplanade**
- 8:15pm - arrive at the **Edinburgh Castle Esplanade** to find your seats for tonight’s performance of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (doors open 45 minutes prior to performance and you must be seated 15 minutes prior)
- 9:15pm - Time to be seated for tonight’s performance of **Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo** -the Tattoo has a proud history stretching back 7 decades – the inaugural performance took place in 1950
- 11:00pm - at the end of the performance board your 2 coaches r **2 coaches** for boarding - say good-bye to your **guides**
- return to your accommodation (*remember to take all your luggage off the coaches*)

Day 11 – Sunday August 4, 2024 (Sunday August 4, 2024)

B/D

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- Enjoy a free day in Edinburgh – this proud Scottish capital boasts stunning architecture, endless winding streets, full of flowers, so take a stroll through the city and discover what makes it both a traditional and a modern city all at the same time!
- **Some optional sightseeing suggestions:**
- - “The Peoples Story”
- - “The Museum of Edinburgh
- - “St. Cecilia’s Hall and Music Museum
- board coach and transfer to your dinner location
- 3 course farewell dinner with beverage service** at a local restaurant followed by an evening

Day 12 – Monday August 5, 2024 (Home)

B/M/M

- **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check out and loading of the coach
- NOTE: - when returning to Canada travellers 16 years of age and older can use the optional **Advance Declaration feature in ArriveCAN** to save time by submitting their customs and immigration declaration in advance of arrival <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/services/border-tech-frontiere/declare-before-avant-eng.html>
- board coach and depart Edinburgh for **Glasgow International Airport**
- arrive in Glasgow at the airport and check in at the **Airline Ticket Counter** (*groups travelling on international routes are required to check in 3 hours prior to your schedules departure time*)
- mid to late morning **departure** from Glasgow for **Toronto, ON** (*connections possible*)
- **inflight meal service : hot lunch and afternoon snack** (*timing of meal service is left to the discretion of the airline*)
- late afternoon arrival in Toronto at **Pearson International Airport** (*set watches to local time*)
- clear Customs and proceed to the baggage claim area to collect your luggage
- meet **56 passenger coach** in front of the Terminal to load luggage - board coach and depart Toronto for **Chatham, ON**
- evening arrival in Chatham at St. Andrew’s United Church – Welcome Home!

**B - Breakfast / pB – Packed Breakfast / L – Lunch / pL – Packed Lunch / D - Dinner /
M – Airline Meal / S – Snack - denote meals included in tour cost**

Please advise your group leader in advance of any allergy and/or dietary restriction, so that we can advise our suppliers of the request. Not every location may be able to accommodate allergy and/or meal requirements for unique circumstances.

The itinerary is tentative and subject to final confirmation

Student SCHOLARSHIPS are available from Ellison Travel and our valuable partners. See our website <https://www.ellisontravel.com/scholarships/> for more details.