

So You Are Thinking Of Going To Ireland Scotland

If you are considering a trip to Ireland and Scotland, you are in for a treat! These two countries offer a wealth of history, culture, and natural beauty, and there is something for everyone to enjoy. To help you plan your trip, I have put together this comprehensive guide that will provide you with everything you need to know about visiting Ireland and Scotland.

Planning Your Trip

Things to Consider:

Before you start planning your trip, there are a few things you should consider:



So You Are Thinking of Going to Ireland (& W. Scotland)

by James Gould

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4583 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 155 pages
Lending : Enabled



* **When to go:** The best time to visit Ireland and Scotland is during the shoulder seasons (April-May and September-October), when the weather is

mild and there are fewer tourists. However, each season offers its own unique experiences, so you may want to consider traveling during a different time of year. * **How long to go:** The amount of time you spend in Ireland and Scotland will depend on your interests and budget. However, I would recommend spending at least a week in each country to get a good feel for the culture and history. * **How to get around:** The best way to get around Ireland and Scotland is by car. This will give you the flexibility to explore at your own pace and visit some of the more remote areas. However, you can also get around by train or bus, which are both reliable and affordable options.

Creating an Itinerary:

Once you have considered the factors above, you can start to create an itinerary for your trip. Here are a few suggested itineraries:

1. **One week in Ireland:** Start in Dublin and spend a few days exploring the city's many attractions. Then, take a day trip to Glendalough, a beautiful mountain valley with a fascinating monastic settlement. Drive to the west coast and visit Galway, a vibrant city with a lively pub scene. From there, head to Connemara, a stunning region of mountains, lakes, and coastline. Finish your trip in Cork, a charming city with a rich history.
2. **One week in Scotland:** Start in Edinburgh and spend a few days exploring the city's many attractions. Then, take a day trip to Loch Lomond, a beautiful lake surrounded by mountains. Drive to the Highlands and visit Glencoe, a dramatic mountain pass with a tragic history. From there, head to the Isle of Skye, a stunning island with

rugged coastline and towering mountains. Finish your trip in Inverness, the capital of the Highlands.

3. **Two weeks in Ireland and Scotland:** Combine the two itineraries above to create a two-week trip that will give you a taste of both countries. Start in Dublin and spend a few days exploring the city. Then, take a day trip to Glendalough. Drive to the west coast and visit Galway and Connemara. From there, head to Edinburgh and explore the city's attractions. Then, take a day trip to Loch Lomond. Drive to the Highlands and visit Glencoe and the Isle of Skye. Finish your trip in Inverness.

What to See and Do

Ireland

Ireland is a land of rich history, beautiful scenery, and friendly people. Here are a few of the top things to see and do in Ireland:

- **Visit Dublin:** Dublin is the capital of Ireland and a vibrant city with a rich history and culture. Be sure to visit Trinity College, Dublin Castle, and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Take a stroll down Grafton Street, one of the busiest shopping streets in Europe. And enjoy a pint of Guinness at one of the many pubs in the city.
- **Explore Glendalough:** Glendalough is a beautiful mountain valley with a fascinating monastic settlement. The monastery was founded in the 6th century by St. Kevin and was once one of the most important religious centers in Ireland. Today, you can visit the ruins of the monastery, as well as the surrounding mountains and lakes.

- **Discover Galway:** Galway is a vibrant city on the west coast of Ireland. The city is known for its lively pub scene, its traditional Irish music, and its beautiful scenery. Be sure to visit the Spanish Arch, the Claddagh Ring, and the Galway Cathedral. Take a boat trip to the Aran Islands, a group of three islands off the coast of Galway.
- **Explore Connemara:** Connemara is a stunning region of mountains, lakes, and coastline. The region is home to some of the most beautiful scenery in Ireland. Be sure to visit Connemara National Park, the Kylemore Abbey, and the Twelve Bens Mountains. Take a drive along the Sky Road, one of the most scenic drives in Ireland.
- **Visit Cork:** Cork is a charming city in the south of Ireland. The city is known for its beautiful architecture, its lively pub scene, and its friendly people. Be sure to visit St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, the English Market, and the Blackrock Castle Observatory. Take a walk along the River Lee, one of the most beautiful rivers in Ireland.

Scotland

Scotland is a land of stunning natural beauty, rich history, and proud culture. Here are a few of the top things to see and do in Scotland:

- **Visit Edinburgh:** Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland and a beautiful city with a rich history and culture. Be sure to visit Edinburgh Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and the Royal Mile. Take a walk through the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. And enjoy a pint of Scotch whisky at one of the many pubs in the city.
- **Explore Loch Lomond:** Loch Lomond is a beautiful lake surrounded by mountains. The lake is a popular spot for swimming, boating, and fishing. Be sure to visit the Loch Lomond Shores, a popular tourist

destination with shops, restaurants, and activities. Take a boat trip to Inchmurrin Island, the largest island in Loch Lomond.

- **Discover Glencoe:** Glencoe is a dramatic mountain pass with a tragic history. The pass was the site of the Massacre of Glencoe in 1692, when 38 members of the Clan MacDonald were murdered by government troops. Today, you can visit the Glencoe Visitor Centre to learn more about the massacre. Take a walk through the pass, and enjoy the stunning scenery.
- **Explore the Isle of Skye:** The Isle of Skye is a stunning island off the west coast of Scotland. The island is home to some of the most beautiful scenery in Scotland, including the Cuillin Mountains, the Old Man of Storr, and the Quiraing. Be sure to visit the Skye Museum of Island Life to learn more about the history and culture of the island. Take a drive along the



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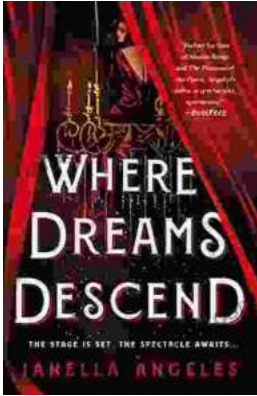
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