



An Turas
Heritage Expeditions

NORTHERN IRELAND - BEYOND BELFAST

Customize your itinerary and choose your own travel dates



AN TURAS HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS

Kirsty Duncan

Born and raised in the Highlands of Scotland, I have always loved exploring the mountains, lochs, rivers and forests of Scotland and further afield. Over the years I have become fascinated with the remote ruined villages and crofts of the Highlands and Islands and I've developed a passion for our amazing Neolithic sites (of which we have many). My love of learning about Scottish history and heritage continues to grow the more I learn and explore.

After 8 years of working for a renowned UK-based tour operator and laterally with a focus on delivering bespoke, private tours in Scotland, I have a wealth of experience in all that the country has to offer.

Favourite regions: Argyll on the West Coast, the Orkney Islands and the Inner Hebrides – each has their own character and unique landscape.

Favourite Sites: Kilmartin Glen, Maes Howe, Bosta Bay & Arichonan



NORTHERN IRELAND - BEYOND BELFAST

Overview

Picturesque coastal towns and villages, green pastoral fields, soaring cliffs, wild barren landscapes, the crash of the ocean, the laugh of a local. Northern Ireland is romantic, authentic, a home away from home where both old and modern seem to cohabit seamlessly on a small island in the middle of the sea.

Packed with history and tradition, on this private tour of Northern Ireland your days are spent exploring famous and off the beaten track sites of natural, cultural and political interest. A world renowned food scene means your evenings are spent dining in style and with the promise of a pub just around the corner, music and laughter are never far away.













Your trip to Northern Ireland will surprise and delight you, but the people will stay with you, long after your journey has taken you home.

Activity Level











Speak to your travel designer about how active you like to be on vacation. This trip can be adapted to include easy, moderate or more challenging hikes, or you can choose to do a less active version.

We will pair you up with a guide who is most suited to your activity level.

Itinerary Overview

Day	Activities
Day 1	<p> Transfer departs Dublin Airport Transfer arrives Your Hotel</p> <p>On arrival in Dublin, you'll be met by a private driver who will whisk you directly to your city centre hotel. Take some time to settle in before joining a local historian for an engaging walking tour of the lively capital city.</p> <hr/> <p> Dublin Walking Tour</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at The Merrion Hotel</p>
Day 2	<p> Check Out from The Merrion Hotel</p> <hr/> <p> Meet Your Guide</p> <p>Your private driver guide will collect you from your hotel this morning. Leaving Dublin and the south of Ireland behind, head north to the small coastal town of Newcastle.</p> <hr/> <p> Cycling In Mourne</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at Conlyn House</p>
Day 3	<p> Irish Dancing Experience</p> <hr/> <p> Overnight at Conlyn House</p>
Day 4	<p> Check Out from Conlyn House</p> <hr/> <p> Belfast History Tour</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at The Merchant Hotel</p>

Itinerary Overview

Day	Activities
Day 5	 Belfast Food Tour <hr/>  Titanic Experience <hr/>  Overnight at The Merchant Hotel
Day 6	 Check Out from The Merchant Hotel <hr/>  Gobbins Cliff Path & The Causeway Coast <hr/>  Check In at The Bushmills Inn
Day 7	 Rathlin Island Boat Trip <hr/>  Overnight at The Bushmills Inn
Day 8	 Check Out from The Bushmills Inn <hr/>  Transfer departs Your Hotel Transfer arrives The Airport

Your Accommodations

Day	Accommodation	Details	Nights
Day 1 - 2	The Merrion Hotel	-	1
Day 2 - 4	Conlyn House	-	2
Day 4 - 6	The Merchant Hotel	-	2
Day 6 - 8	The Bushmills Inn	-	2

Map



Summary

- 1) Day 1 - 2: The Merrion Hotel, Dublin
- 2) Day 2 - 4: Conlyn House, Northern Ireland
- 3) Day 4 - 6: The Merchant Hotel, Belfast
- 4) Day 6 - 8: The Bushmills Inn, Northern Ireland



DAY 1

Transfer to Your Hotel

- Depart Dublin Airport
- Arrive Your Hotel

On arrival in Dublin, you'll be met by a private driver who will whisk you directly to your city centre hotel. Take some time to settle in before joining a local historian for an engaging walking tour of the lively capital city.

Dublin Walking Tour

Head out to enjoy a walking tour with a local private guide through this vibrant capital city, with its mix of 1,000 years of architecture from the Medieval to Georgian, right through to the modern. See the Georgian style Merrion Square, lush St. Stephen's Green and Fitzwilliam Square, as well as O'Connell Street, the site of the 1916 Uprising that led to Ireland's independence in 1922.

Your guide is a local historian who will bring the city to life with colourful tales of life in the city in times gone by.

Dublin is a city that's as intimate as a village and as friendly as an Irish pub. Framed by mountains, centred on a river and edged by a beautiful bay, the city's streets and alleys are filled with vibrant art and historic buildings, hip cafés and traditional "old man" pubs, as Dubliners call them. Walk the streets and you'll feel the energy of over 1,000 years of history, as echoes of the Vikings mix with buzzing boutiques, cobble streets reverberate with the sounds of buskers, and 18th century parks play host to festivals, film and food markets.



DAY 1

Included Meals: Breakfast and lunch

Check in at The Merrion Hotel

1 Night

Property Overview

The Merrion, located in the heart of Dublin city centre, is the capital's most luxurious five star hotel, and a proud member of The Leading Hotels of the World. The 142-bedroom and suite hotel is as welcoming as it is stylish. An impeccable restoration of four Georgian townhouses, The Merrion is a marriage of exquisite comfort, relaxed elegance and advanced guest facilities.

The Merrion is home to the 2-star Michelin Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud, The Cellar Bar, The Garden Room, and the intimate No. 23 Cocktail Bar.

Experience & Activities

The Merrion Hotel offers an extensive range of services and facilities including a swimming pool, spa, gym, parking, business services and Merrion bikes for exploring everything that the capital has to offer. The Merrion prides itself on being family-friendly too and aims to make your family's stay in Dublin even more memorable.

This 5 star luxury hotel lies in the heart of Georgian Dublin, opposite Government Buildings and a few minutes' walk from galleries, museums, the I.F.S.C, Dublin Convention Centre, pubs, restaurants and the shops of Grafton Street.



DAY 1

Fast Facts

Highlights

The houses were built in the 1760s by Lord Monck for wealthy Irish merchants and nobility

Enjoy 2 Michelin-star Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud

Six splendid meeting and/or private dining rooms

Quick facts

123 rooms and 19 suites

Free Wi-Fi

Swimming pool

Luxury spa

Fitness facility

Meeting rooms

Laundry available

24-hour room & concierge service



DAY 2

Check out from The Merrion Hotel

Meet Your Guide

Your private driver guide will collect you from your hotel this morning.

Leaving Dublin and the south of Ireland behind, head north to the small coastal town of Newcastle.

Cycling In Mourne

Guided cycling in the Kingdom of Mourne

Today you will meet a local biking expert and cycle an awesome circular route that meanders from the largely undiscovered Mourne coast to the foothills of the high Mournes, offering unique views in every direction. The highest and most dramatic mountain range in the northern part of Ireland, these mountains and hills are riddled with 18th century smuggler's routes and its peaks capped with dramatic granite tors.

This region is diverse in every sense, offering insights into the natural, built and social heritage that makes the 'Kingdom of Mourne' what it is today, including the stunning Greencastle Castle dating from as far back as the 13th Century.

Today's cycle will be tailored to your own requirements.



DAY 2

Included Meals: Breakfast and lunch

Check in at Conlyn House

2 Nights

Property Overview

A warm welcome awaits you at this newly-refurbished B&B on the beachfront, Central Promenade, Newcastle, County Down, a mere 9-iron from world famous Royal County Down Golf course.

Wake up to the soothing sounds of the ocean caressing the County Down coastline just metres from your luxuriously-decorated bedroom and enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast as you savour the panoramic views of Dundrum Bay and the majestic Slieve Donard sloping to kiss the Irish Sea.

From the moment you enter the purple front door of Conlyn House, you are embraced with a warmth and hospitality which is second to none.

Fast Facts

Highlights

Sea front location in the town of Newcastle

Homely guest house with a personal touch

Shops, cafes and restaurants nearby



DAY 3

Irish Dancing Experience

A one of a kind Irish dancing experience

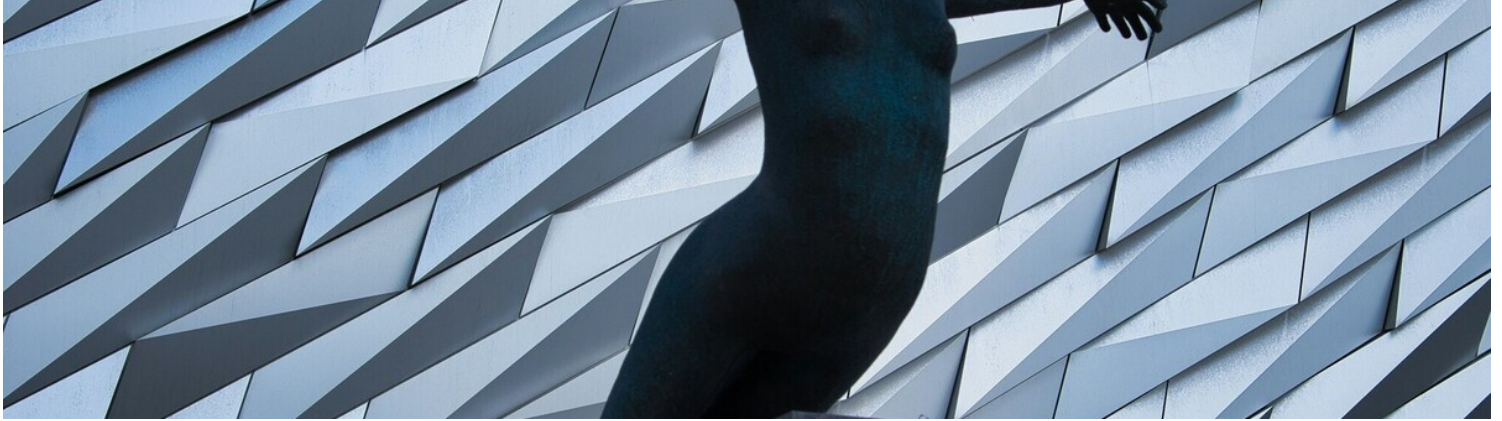
From the middle of the 17th century, charismatic dance masters would travel from village to village in Ireland. Dressed in brightly coloured clothes and carrying a staff, they would teach dancing to the local people. Later, the tradition of gathering after the harvest at a crossroads for a dance became established. Breathing new life into these traditions, Josephine weaves her magic through an interactive, one-of-a-kind Irish dancing experience.

Your time begins with a welcoming cup of tea or coffee, along with a slice of traditional home-made barmbrack. Then you will learn to master the dance steps for yourself!

Later today you will visit some of the megalithic monuments dotted around the area, dating back thousands of years. This evening, have a delicious dinner by the promenade.

Included Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Overnight at Conlyn House



DAY 4

Check out from Conlyn House

Belfast History Tour

Explore Belfast's tumultuous past with a local

After a short drive this morning you'll arrive in Belfast, a city that has been the scene of bloody battles and civil strife for hundreds of years. Today you are going to delve right into this history, meeting a local who lived through it.

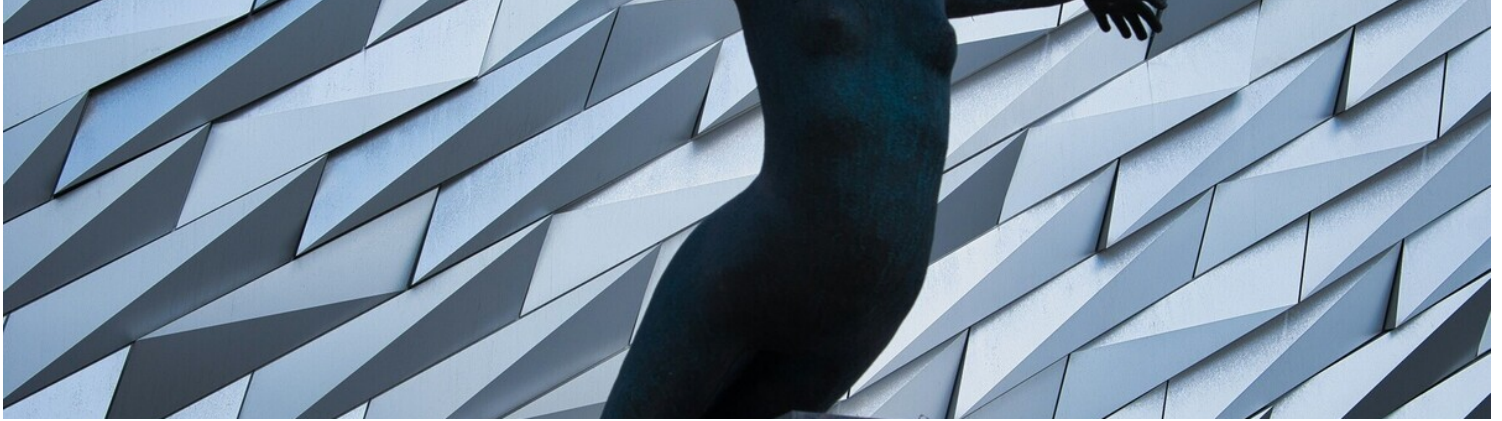
Visit Crumlin Road Gaol, (known locally as 'The Crum'), which held prisoners since 1846 but took a leading role in the detainment of Republicans and Loyalists during 'The Troubles'.

Later, explore and experience the famous West Belfast murals from the comfort of a black taxi with a local who will share their take on the political and historical background as well as their local knowledge. Sign your name on the world-famous Peace Wall, that has divided catholic and protestant communities in Belfast for years.

Included Meals: Breakfast and lunch

Check in at The Merchant Hotel

2 Nights



DAY 4

Property Overview

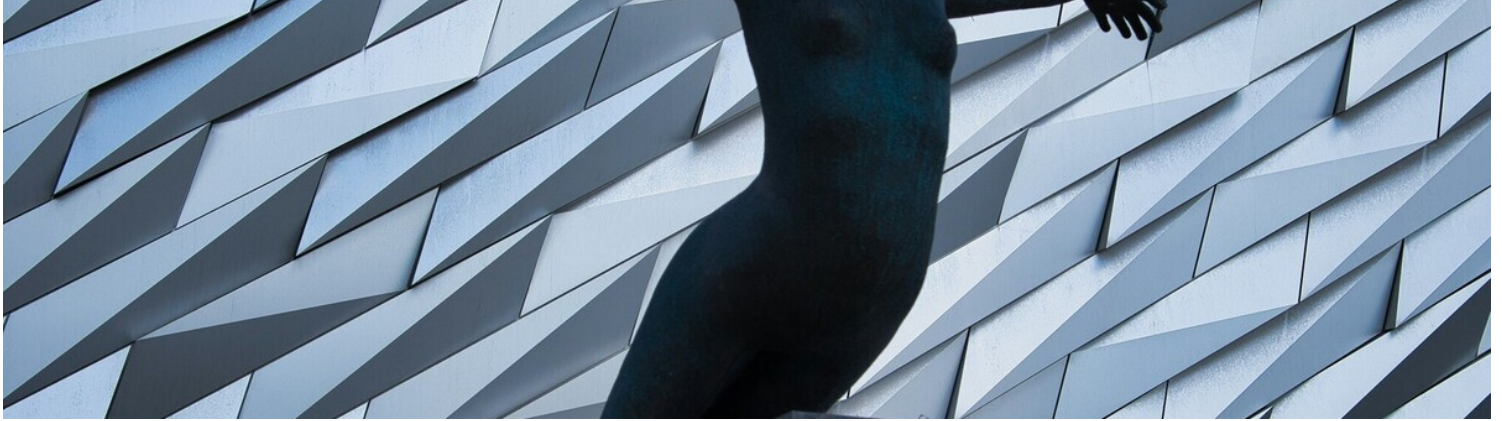
The Merchant Hotel offers unparalleled five-star service and the height of luxury in the heart of Belfast's historic Cathedral Quarter. The rich history and heritage of our grade A listed building is complemented by a wealth of modern, multi-award winning facilities and services with every comfort the modern traveller could wish for. We look forward to welcoming you to your home from home in Belfast.

Remarkable heritage and modern luxury await guests of the hotel. 63 highly appointed bedrooms offer every comfort. Our three restaurants are home to some of the best food in the city and the multi-award-winning Cocktail Bar is the perfect spot for whiling away the afternoon as you enjoy a perfectly crafted cocktail. With a luxurious spa, a rooftop hot tub and many more amenities to enjoy, you may not want to leave the hotel.

Experience & Activities

Experience an unexpected, stunning and hidden destination spa in the heart of Belfast city centre. With five treatment rooms, a relaxation room and hydrotherapy area*, this restful space is a quiet haven away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Open to residents and non-residents alike, The Spa has been thoughtfully designed to create a restorative environment to promote physical well-being and a state of calm. In this tranquil space, your senses are stimulated through sensual aromas, gentle music and wonderful treatments leaving you deeply relaxed and restored.



DAY 4

Fast Facts

Highlights

Located in the heart of Belfast's Cathedral Quarter

3 restaurants on site

An indulgent spa

Multi-awarded winning cocktail bar

Quick facts

63 rooms

Free Wi-Fi

Spa and fitness centre

3 restaurants

Cocktail bar

Concierge service



DAY 5

Belfast Food Tour

Experience Belfast's food and drink scene

You may prefer to skip breakfast this morning as you join a couple of locals on a private food tour of Belfast.

Start in the historic St George's Market, meeting producers, and tasting yummy local products, before heading around Belfast to visit traditional bars, world-class shops and more, eating and drinking some of the best local food and drink along the way.

Titanic Experience

The story of RMS Titanic

This afternoon, make your way to Belfast's Titanic Quarter. Enjoy the ultimate Titanic day out with a White Star Premium Pass which includes the award-winning guided Discovery Tour, entry to the Titanic Experience and SS Nomadic, the last remaining White Star vessel.

Included Meals: Breakfast and lunch

Overnight at The Merchant Hotel



DAY 6

Check out from The Merchant Hotel

Gobbins Cliff Path & The Causeway Coast

A dramatic coastal hiking experience

Today, tackle one of the most dramatic hikes in Europe, the Gobbins Path. Originally opened in 1902, it was later abandoned in the 1960s until its rebirth in 2015. The Gobbins Path experience takes you along a narrow path hugging the dramatic cliff face, across spectacular bridges amid the swirling waves of the North Channel.

Traverse hidden tunnels under the Irish Sea, climb rugged staircases carved into the cliff face and duck into caves once home to smugglers and privateers.

Afterwards, follow a stunning coastal route – the “secret” way to visit the Giant’s Causeway. Admire castle ruins, dramatic cliffs, stunning beaches and picturesque harbours and even visit a few places that inspired and appeared on HBO’s *Game of Thrones*. The grand finale is at the spectacular Giant’s Causeway – octagonal columns of rocks created by feuding giants or volcanic activity – myth or science, you decide!

Included Meals: Breakfast and lunch

Check in at The Bushmills Inn

2 Nights



DAY 6

Property Overview

Set against the backdrop of the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland, The Bushmills Inn is the perfect retreat for those who crave the unconventional, yet still expect exceptional service. The welcome is warm and the fire always lit.

Originally a coaching inn in the 1600s, this 4 star boutique hotel and restaurant is steeped in Irish history with a myriad of places to hide from the world. Step back to a time steeped in charm. From inglenook turf fires to hayloft snugs, there's something to find behind every door.

Experience & Activities

In the village that is home to the world's oldest Whiskey Distillery, between the famous Giant's Causeway and Royal Portrush Golf Club, we offer the perfect base to explore a host of visitor attractions such as Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Dunluce Castle and many of the Game of Thrones filming locations.

Fast Facts

Highlights

Traditional coaching inn

Amazing location on the Causeway Coast

Wonderful restaurant showcasing locally sourced ingredients

Quick facts

- 41 Bedrooms
- Free Wi-Fi



DAY 6

- On site restaurant and bar
- Laundry service



DAY 7

Rathlin Island Boat Trip

An island of myth and mystery

Sail along the Causeway Coast to Rathlin Island – many tales of myth and mystery surround Rathlin Island, though the most famous tells of Robert the Bruce. In 1306, the Scottish King was driven from Scotland by Edward I of England and took refuge on Rathlin where he watched a spider persevering again and again to bridge a gap with its web. Eventually it succeeded. Taking heart from the spider's efforts, Robert the Bruce returned to Scotland and eventually regained his crown.

You'll take a boat out to the island and explore by foot today, visiting the bird sanctuary and discovering the lighthouses on the island's east and west coasts. At certain times of year you may even spot the resident island Puffins!

Included Meals: Breakfast and lunch

Overnight at The Bushmills Inn



DAY 8

Check out from The Bushmills Inn

Transfer to The Airport

- Depart Your Hotel
- Arrive The Airport

After enjoying a relaxing morning, it is time to leave Northern Ireland. A private transfer will drop you at the airport of your choice at your preferred time.

Included Meals: Breakfast



COSTS

Prices start at £8,750 per person based on 2 people traveling together on a private basis.

Pricing is in GBP

Pricing varies depending on your group size, travel dates and any amendments to the itinerary and accommodations.

This tour is an example of what we offer, all tours are tailored to suit your own interests.

This cost includes:

- 7 nights accommodation based on 2 people sharing a room
- Private driver guide from Day 2 to Day 8 inclusive
- Private vehicles from Day 2 to Day 8 inclusive
- Meals as listed in the above itinerary (lunches are a mixture of bagged and cafe)
- All entry fees, activities and hikes mentioned in the itinerary
- All ferry travel throughout this itinerary
- Snacks throughout the trip
- 24/7 in-country support
- Gratuities for local services and experiences

This cost does not include:

- Travel insurance
- Flights
- Any meals not mentioned in the inclusions

COSTS

- Any activities, entry fees and attractions not mentioned in the inclusions
- Gratuities for your main Driver Guide



GET IN TOUCH

Start your journey with An Turas Heritage Expeditions

All of our sample tours are fully customizable and we can also create your perfect itinerary from scratch based on your unique interests.

Get in touch to start your journey to Scotland and Ireland with An Turas Heritage Expeditions.

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