



Ring of Callanish

SCOTLAND'S WESTERN & NORTHERN ISLES.

Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime tour of Shetland, Orkney and the Outer Hebrides. This tour begins in Glasgow and ends in Edinburgh. Our adventure to the great island wilds of Scotland starts by visiting sites of ancient historical significance, including settlements of the very earliest of Scottish inhabitants. Our excursions take us to Norse farmsteads, Stone Age settlements, prehistoric stone rings and much more. We will venture through seven thousand years of continuous history and examine both the Irish and the Norse heritages of the Western Isles, Orkney, and Shetland. For the nature lovers on the tour, we will see multitudes of seabirds, otters, and other wildlife distinctive to island habitats.

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CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND. This tour begins in County Galway, taking us through the Connemara region for visits to Kylemore Abbey, Aughnanure Castle, and the charming seaside village of Clifden. From there we travel through County Mayo on our way to County Sligo and a night of Irish poetry and song, with a stop at the sea kelp baths at Kilcullens along the way. From Sligo we go to County Donegal, a land of over 7,000 years of continuous habitation with many historical sites to visit. We round off our trip to Christmas in Ireland with a first-hand experience of Joyce's "dear, dirty Dublin." We'll make a day trip out from the city to visit the ancient passage tombs at Bru na Boinne, the most famous of which is Newgrange. Our visit coincides with a very famous event which occurs each month of December at the tomb.

Christmas in Ireland: December 1-10, 2008
Application Deadline: Oct. 20, 2008.
Cost: From \$4290.



Dublin City Hall, Christmas

ADDITIONAL 2009 TOUR OPTIONS:

- A Taste of Ireland
- Historic Ireland
- Saints and Giants
- North and South
- Into the West
- Ireland's Rings
- Donegal Southwest by Northeast

Toll Free (888) 648-8893



See the Scotland & Ireland most people miss.....

Rising Road Tours specializes in personalized, small group tours to rural Ireland and Scotland. In addition to tour packages to rural areas in Ireland and the western and northern isles of Scotland, we offer customized tours and self-guided tour consultations.

In 2009, we are pleased to announce new tours that offer cultural excursions to the Scottish isles, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Republic.



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Little Loch Broom area, Scotland

HIGHLAND HILL WALKING. Intrepid hill walkers will enjoy this excursion across the Highlands Scotland and Donegal. Our trip begins in Edinburgh where we meet with our partners at Wilderness Scotland, who specialize in treks across the Scottish Highlands. After five days in Scotland, we head to northwest Ireland for hill walking in Donegal. One highlight of the Irish adventure is trekking overland to One Man's Pass on Sliabh Laeg, the highest sea cliffs in Europe. Tour size is limited to ten participants.



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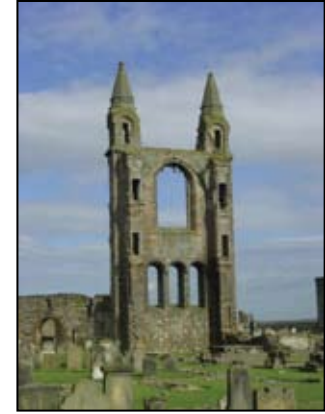
IN THE STEPS OF ST. COLUMBA. For those interested in ecclesiastical history, this tour visits sites associated with St. Columba, founder of Irish missions in the fifth and sixth centuries. Columban priests are credited with producing world-famous illuminated manuscripts such as the Book of Kells. This adventure starts in Gleann Cholm Cille, Co. Donegal, Valley of the Dove of the Church (Columba). Here we will participate in Turas Columcille, the pilgrimage round of St. Columba, which has taken place continuously since 594 in this valley on the saint's feast day, June 9. If time permits, the group also may make a one-day pilgrimage to St. Patrick's Purgatory, an island in Lough Derg, where St. Patrick wrestled with demons. From Ireland, the group travels to Iona off the west coast of Scotland, where Columba was exiled and died. This holy island is a place of contemplation and prayer for people of all faiths. Tour size is limited to eight participants.

In the Steps of St. Columba:
June 5 – June 17, 2009
Application Deadline: April 25, 2009.



Iona

Toll Free (888) 648-8893



St. Andrews Cathedral, Scotland

BIRTHPLACE(S) OF GOLF. Golfers will appreciate the opportunity to try links and parkland courses in the two countries that claim to have invented the game. This tour starts in Ireland where we will have the opportunity to play courses in both the Republic and Northern Ireland. Courses may include Old Tom Morris, Lahinch, and Doonbeg in the Republic; and Royal Portrush and Portstewart in Northern Ireland. In Scotland, we base in East Neuk and play courses in and around St. Andrews. Tour size is limited to eight participants.



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