

Travelabout's....

'Britain, Ireland & Northern Ireland'

31 Day tour package with 2 Bangkok stopovers

1st departure – 11 July 2011

2nd departure - 29 August 2011

Detailed tour itinerary:

Day 1 Homeport - Bangkok

Depart Sydney on Thai Airways TG456 at 10.00am. Arrive in Bangkok at 4.30pm where we have private transfers to our hotel. Evening is at leisure. O/n Bangkok Brisbane passengers depart at 2.20pm on Thai Airways flight TG474 and arrive in Bangkok at 8.40pm. Melbourne passengers depart at 4.05pm on Thai Airways flight TG466 and arrive in Bangkok at 10.35pm. Perth passengers depart at 4.45pm on Thai Airways flight TG482 and arrive in Bangkok at 10.45pm

Day 2 Bangkok - London

Following breakfast this morning we are transferred to Bangkok Airport for our day-flight to London on Thai Airways TG916 departing at 12.25pm. Arrive at Heathrow at 6.30pm (same day) and later transferred to our London hotel for the next 4 nights. O/n Kensington Close Hotel (B)

Day 3 London - Sightseeing Tour

A wonderful day exploring this fascinating city on the Hop On Hop Off sightseeing bus. See major attractions and landmarks, like St Paul's Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Knightsbridge, Trafalgar Square, Albert Hall, Piccadilly Circus, Tower Bridge, Kensington Palace, Harrods and much more. O/n Kensington Close Hotel (B)

Day 4 London – Independent sightseeing

Independently visiting more famous attractions We suggest you start with Buckingham Palace and changing of the guards, No. 10 Downing Street, Horse Guards, Carrington House, Pall Mall and stroll through St James's Park. Later, visit the nearby Cabinet War Rooms & Churchill Museum and Westminster Abbey. O/n Kensington Close Hotel (B)

Day 5 London – Independent sightseeing

Today we suggest you visit the beautiful Kew Gardens south-west of London and maybe continue onto Wimbledon Tennis Courts and Museum and join a guided tour. Wimbledon is in the same vicinity. O/n Kensington Close Hotel (B)

Day 6 London-Oxford-Stratford-Coventry

Meet your Tour Director and travelling companions and depart at 8 a.m. for a memorable day's sightseeing: a photo opportunity at Hampton Court Palace; Runnymede, where King John sealed the Magna Carta; a walking tour in Oxford, one of the country's oldest seats of learning; through the lovely Cotswold Hills. At Shakespeare's

Stratford-upon-Avon take your pictures of Anne Hathaway's Cottage and explore the town at your own pace. Finally at Coventry, whose centre had to be rebuilt after the devastation of World War II bombings, hear the tale of Lady Godiva and Peeping Tom, and admire the splendid modern cathedral. O/n Barcelo Hinckley Island Centre Hotel (B,D)

Day 7 Coventry-York- Newcastle

Leave the Midlands, passing the once-mighty Sherwood Forest, home of the legendary Robin Hood, and head north to York, England's most complete medieval city. Stand in awe in front of the great structure of York Minster, then follow your Tour Director through a maze of quaint streets including the narrow shambles. Stop for the night in Newcastle, once an important centre for the wool trade and coal mining and now a vibrant modern city. O/n Jurys Inn (B,D)

Day 8 Newcastle-Edinburgh

See a section of Hadrian's Wall, the Roman coast-to-coast defence against marauding northern tribes, then motor through wild Northumberland National Park to the Scottish border. Stop for photos at Jedburgh, with glimpses of the house of Mary, Queen of Scots, and then Melrose with its 12th-century abbey ruins and connections with Robert the Bruce. Afternoon arrival at Edinburgh. A suggestion for this evening: a traditional Scottish night out with Highland dancers, bagpipers and of course, the Ceremony of the Haggis. O/n Encore Hotel (B)

Day 9 Edinburgh Sightseeing

A full day to enjoy this "Prince of Cities". Morning sightseeing with a Local Guide introduces you to the 200-year-old "New Town" and famous scientists, inventors and novelists. In the "Old Town", drive up the narrow Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle to admire Scotland's Crown Jewels. Afternoon at leisure. Tonight tickets are included for a performance of the world-renowned Edinburgh Military Tattoo. O/n Encore Hotel (B)

Day 10 Edinburgh-St.Andrews-Inverness-Strathpeffer

A day of memorable sightseeing: St. Andrews, whose Royal and Ancient Golf Club has given us the rules of golfing; Braemar, home of the Royal Highland Games for over 900 years; and Royal Deeside, where the Queen is an annual visitor. Cross the battlefield of Culloden Moor with its memories of Bonnie Prince Charlie, then via Inverness, head for your Highland destination. O/n Ben Wyvis Hotel (B,D)

Day 11 Strathpeffer-West Coast Excursion

More spectacular Scottish scenery. The lovely Falls of Shin; Dornoch Firth and the Kyle of Sutherland; then follow Strath Oykel for a visit to Ullapool, a remote fishing harbour on Loch Broom. Along Loch Glascarnoch, then visit a whisky distillery, where your guide explains the ancient art of converting barley, water,

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and yeast into a heart warming liquor. This evening is an optional Loch Ness experience which includes a cruise on the Loch, followed by dinner. O/n Ben Wyvis Hotel (FB)

Day 12 Strathpeffer-Isle of Skye-Fort William-Glasgow

More heather-clad moors as you drive through the western Highlands to Lochalsh and the Inner Hebridean Isle of Skye. The route back to the mainland is by ferry across the Sound of Sleat to Mallaig, then breathtaking scenery all the way to Fort William beneath Ben Nevis. Glen Coe, where the MacDonald Clan was treacherously massacred by the Campbells in 1692, and a drive along the "Bonnie Banks" of Loch Lomond are scenic highlights on the way to Glasgow, Scotland's great cultural city.

O/n Pond Hotel (B,D)

Day 13 Glasgow-Belfast

On this morning's orientation drive through Scotland's largest city, see the fine 12th-century cathedral, imposing university buildings and elegant Georgian Squares built by the wealthy tobacco barons. Later, stop at Alloway, the birthplace of Robert Burns, before boarding the ferry for the Irish Sea crossing to Belfast. Before checking into your hotel, join the "living history" orientation drive through this fascinating city in the company of a Local Guide. O/n Ramada Hotel (B,D)

Day 14 Belfast-Giant's Causeway-Derry-Sligo

Take the scenic route along the Antrim coast to awe-inspiring Giant's Causeway, then let the province's story unfold as you head for the city of Derry, and later Belleek Pottery Factory, renowned for its exquisite cream-coloured Parian china. At Drumcliff see the grave of native son and poet W.B. Yeats, before arriving in Sligo, tonight's destination. O/n Southern Hotel (B,D)

Day 15 Sligo-Knock-Galway-Cliffs of Moher-Ennis

South to Knock, a village that attracts pilgrims from all over the world since the townsfolk saw apparitions, and Galway, on its beautiful bay, where you hear about the infamous Lynch Stone, commemorating the day Mayor James Lynch Fitzstephen hanged his son for murder. Cross the limestone plateau of The Burren to visit the spectacular 203 metre (668-foot) Cliffs of Moher. Tonight a chance to attend an optional banquet at Bunratty Castle. O/n Auburn Lodge (B)

Day 16 Ennis-Dingle Peninsula-Killarney

Motoring via Clonderlaw Bay to Killimer for the ferry across the Shannon estuary. Enjoy breathtaking scenery this afternoon on the Dingle Peninsula, where the 32-mile Sleat Head drive affords magnificent vistas of the Atlantic Ocean. Afternoon arrival in Killarney, your destination for the next two nights. O/n Kenmare Court Hotel (B,D)

Day 17 Killarney-Ring of Kerry Excursion

At Killorglin join the road known as the "Ring of Kerry" for a 100 mile coastal panoramic drive: sparkling seascapes, mountains dotted with brightly coloured farmhouses, winding lanes bordered with subtropical

vegetation, and spectacular views of the Lakes of Killarney. Then, a special optional adventure: take a horse-drawn jaunting car along the national park lakeshore for pictures of Ross Castle. Later, enjoy the optional outing to Tralee for dinner and a performance at Siamsa Tire, Ireland's National Folk Theatre.

O/n Kenmare Court Hotel (B)

Day 18 Killarney-Blarney-Tramore

More scenic splendour as you head into County Cork. Stop in Blarney, famous for its Stone of Eloquence, with time at your leisure to see the castle and shop for Irish crafts and handmade crystal. After lunch, drive past Cork, the country's second-largest city. Finally, Dungarvan and along the Copper Coast to the seaside resort of Tramore. Tonight, maybe an optional pub tour before dinner at your hotel. O/n Majestic Hotel (FB,D)

Day 19 Tramore-Waterford-Avoca-Dublin

Highlights on your northbound journey: Waterford, famed for its exquisite crystal; Enniscorthy, site of the final battle of the Great Rebellion of 1798; a visit to Ireland's oldest handweaving mill at Avoca; views of the Wicklow Mountains; and Glendalough with its ruins of a centre of Irish Christianity founded by St. Kevin. Afternoon arrival in Dublin. Take your Tour Director's dining recommendation for this evening O/n Jurys Custom House Inn (FB)

Day 20 Dublin-sightseeing

A day in the "Fair City" starts off with an orientation drive through Ireland's capital and includes statue-lined O'Connell Street, elegant Georgian squares, and St. Patrick's Cathedral. The rest of the day is free to enjoy Dublin at leisure. Top the day with an optional dinner evening at the Guinness Storehouse.

O/n Jurys Custom House Inn (B)

Day 21 Dublin-Wrexham

Across the Irish Sea to Holyhead on the Welsh Isle of Anglesey with its tongue-twisting place names. Enjoy the best of North Wales on a scenic drive through Snowdonia National Park, including spectacular Llanberis Pass and pretty Betws-y-Coed, before arriving in Wrexham. This evening, why not join an optional excursion by barge along the Llangollen Canal. O/n Ramada Hotel (B,D)

Day 22 Wrexham-Chester-Cardiff

In Chester, the historic county town on the River Dee, your walking tour takes in the Roman remains, black and white half-timbered buildings, and the two-tiered shopping arcades called the "Rows." Head south now through the market town of Ludlow to Cardiff. In the Welsh capital an orientation drive takes in Cathays Park with its splendid civic buildings and Cardiff Castle. Your Tour Director will recommend tonight's optional Welsh evening. O/n Park Inn (B)

Day 23 Cardiff-Bath-Plymouth

Across the Severn Bridge to the elegant Georgian city of Bath famed for its Roman relics. Into the West Country

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via Glastonbury and its associations with King Arthur, and wild and romantic Dartmoor with a visit to the picture-book village of Widecombe-in-the-Moor. Upon arrival in Plymouth hear about Sir Francis Drake and see the Mayflower Steps where the Pilgrim Fathers embarked in 1620. O/n Novotel Hotel (B,D)

Day 24 Plymouth–Cornwall–Lands End Excursion

A day full of West Country sights as you head through Daphne Du Maurier's Cornwall. After viewing St. Michael's Mount rising boldly out of the sea, take your photos at Land's End, before exploring the popular seaside resort of St. Ives. Your Tour Director will have suggestions for this evening. O/n Novotel Hotel (B)

Day 25 Plymouth–Stonehenge–Salisbury–Brighton

An interesting day heading into Thomas Hardy's Wessex and views of the intriguing prehistoric monument of Stonehenge. Take a break in Salisbury for a look at its vast cathedral, the ultimate in Early English Gothic architecture. Stop for photos at historic Arundel, dominated by the Duke of Norfolk's huge castle, before continuing on to the seaside resort of Brighton for overnight stay. O/n Ramada (B,D)

Day 26 Brighton–Tunbridge Wells–London

A leisurely last day on the road with time this morning for a seafront promenade stroll or to browse along The Lanes, a quaint area of narrow streets renowned for its antique shops. Finally, take the scenic route via the pretty market town of Lewes and pause for lunch in picturesque Royal Tunbridge Wells. Return to London about 3 pm., where your Cosmos tour ends at the Kensington Close Hotel. O/n Kensington Close Hotel (B)

Day 27 London at leisure

Today we suggest you visit Tower of London – see the famous Crown Jewels and Beefeaters, Tower Bridge and famous, Madam Tussauds Wax Museum. Tonight, maybe wonder Piccadilly Circus, Covent Gardens and London's famous West End entertainment area. O/n Kensington Close Hotel (B)

Day 28 London at leisure–Inflight

Today, maybe visit Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park or a guided tour of Lords cricket oval. A late afternoon airport transfer has been arranged to meet your 9.30pm flight on Thai Airways TG917. O/n Inflight (B)

Day 29 Arrive in Bangkok

Arrive in Bangkok at 3.05pm and later transferred to your hotel. Rest of day is free. Tonight maybe visit the popular Lumpini Night Bazaar or enjoy a live cabaret show at our hotel. O/n Asia Hotel

Day 30 Bangkok - Inflight

The day is at leisure with ample time for last minute shopping and relaxing before our airport transfers. Mid afternoon Sydney passengers depart Bangkok at 7.15pm on Thai Airways flight TG455.

Brisbane passengers depart at 11.59pm on Thai Airways flight TG473.

Melbourne passengers depart Bangkok at 00.15am (Saturday 18 Sep) on Thai Airways flight TG465.

Perth passengers depart Bangkok on Thai Airways flight TG481 at 7.45am and arrive in Perth at 3.40pm.

Day 31 Arrive in Australia

Sydney passengers arrive at 7.15am and home transfers included within 20km radius of airport.

Brisbane passengers arrive at 12.05pm

Melbourne passengers arrive at 1.25pm

Sadly our wonderful tour comes to an end, but our memories and friendships will continue.

38 Meals included: 28 (B) Breakfast and 10 (D) Dinners

1st departure – (11 July 2011)

Tour price \$6935pp (twin share)

2nd departure – (29 August 2011)

Tour price \$6885pp (twin share)

Tour cost includes \$445 in airline taxes

Requested single room: \$1576

Unmatched single supplements: \$550

Single travellers are most welcome!!... and we will endeavour to match you if you wish to share!

Contact Sam Dimarco, Marlene and the team...

Travelabout... professional travel advice based on first hand personal experience
in Britain, Ireland and Northern Ireland!

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