

# Celtic Connection: London, Wales & Dublin

## Rail & Self-drive Package

7 days / 6 nights

The route through England, along northern Wales and across the Irish Sea to Ireland has been followed by warriors and traders since ancient times. However, it was the Celts that began to settle in these parts giving rise to a common heritage between the developing communities in each country. Each new civilization that settled in these regions, including the Romans, Vikings, Normans and Tudors, brought their respective influences and traditions, leading to the countries as we know them today. This new program allows you to follow in their footsteps, scratch the surface, and experience both the history and the modern cultures of each country.

Your 6-night Celtic Connection package includes

- 2 nights hotel London
- 2 nights hotel Dublin, Ireland
- 3-day economy manual car rental
- Daily breakfast
- 2 nights hotel Conwy or Llandudno, Wales
- 1st-class rail with seat reservation
- Club Class ferry Wales to Dublin
- Hotel taxes and service charges

**Like this package, but don't want to drive? You can book this tour with private driving guide. Request rates from Avanti Destinations.**

*If using private driving guide, itinerary includes rail Chester to Conwy on day 3; Conwy to Holyhead day 5. Optional private transfer from Conwy to Holyhead with full-day tour with private guide. Inquire for rates.*

**~ Additional pre and post nights available upon request ~**

**Day 1 ~ Arrive in London:** Arrive by rail or air then check into your hotel for your first night. Optional meet-and-greet transfers are available. *(Accommodation, London)*

**Day 2 ~ London:** After breakfast you have your full day at leisure to explore this historic city founded by the Romans twenty centuries ago, and is filled with art, culture, theater and fine dining. *(Breakfast & accommodation, London)*

*Suggested Optional London Tours & Excursions*

• **Medieval Banquet** Daily except Monday at 7:45 p.m., lasts four hours. Enjoy an authentic 4-course medieval banquet with unlimited beer and wine while being entertained by King Henry VIII and his royal retinue.



• **Windsor, Bath, and Stonehenge with Lunch** Daily 8:45 a.m., (11 hours) with hotel pick up and return. Includes entry to Windsor Castle State Apartments, visit to Queen Mary's Dolls' House and St George's Chapel, Stonehenge, entrance to Roman Baths with spa water tasting and a traditional English lunch.

• **Additional tours and excursions available**

**Day 3 ~ London to Wales:** After breakfast, transfer to the rail station for your trip to Chester, England, where you will pick up your car before making a very enjoyable and scenic drive to either Conwy or Llandudno (*pronounced Thlan-dud-no*) in Wales where you check into your hotel. *(Breakfast, London; Accommodation, Wales)*

### About BritRail

Across Great Britain, rail is your most efficient city-to-city connection with choice of seats in either first or second-class. Better still, rail takes you city center to city center, saving you hours of time. Trains are safe, fast and frequent with many departures between cities from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Trains feature quiet, comfortable service, most offer dining cars and snack service at your seat. *Best of all Avanti Destinations makes of your rail travel arrangements for you directly with Rail Europe for your complete convenience.*



**Day 4 ~ Wales:** After breakfast you're on your own to explore the beauty and heritage of Wales. Wales is sometimes called the castle capital of the world with around 400 castles of which over 100 still stand either as ruins or restored buildings. The rest have returned to nature, and today consist of ditches, mounds and earthworks, often in commanding positions. *(Breakfast & accommodation, Wales)*

**Day 5 ~ Wales to Dublin:** After breakfast, leave You have a choice of either a high-speed ferry or leisurely cruise on your choice of two afternoon crossings daily from Holyhead, Wales, to Dublin, Ireland. *(Breakfast, Wales; accommodation, Dublin)*

### About your Irish Sea Crossing

The Holyhead ferry terminal is near town center, with a cafe serving a selection of snacks, hot & cold drinks. *(Plan to turn in your rental car at the Hertz office in the Holyhead Ferry Terminal. Rental cars are not permitted on ferries for insurance reasons. The Holyhead Hertz office is closed Sundays.)*

Club Class aboard an Irish Sea ferry is comfortable and enjoyable, with sea views and benefits including:



- Priority Boarding
- Complimentary Drinks & Snacks
- Exclusive Lounge Bar 10%
- Reserved Seating
- Complimentary Newspapers
- Discount in onboard gift shop

Note: Arrive on your own to check in for ferry departure 30 minutes prior to sailing time.

Once you arrive in Ireland, you can take an optional private transfer to your hotel.

*(The Ferryport is about 2 miles from the center of Dublin; buses operate to downtown from the terminal.)*

**Day 6 ~ Dublin:** *(Breakfast & accommodation, Dublin)*

### Suggested Optional Dublin Tours & Excursions

- **Dublin Ghost Bus Tour** ~ Nightly at 8:00 p.m., on the world's only "Ghost Bus", your guide introduces you to the felons, fiends and phantoms of a thousand years of Dublin's troubled history. Includes haunted houses, Dracula's Dublin connections and the highlight, and a crash course in body snatching. Lasts 2 hours, 15 minutes.
- **Dublin Literary Pub Crawl** ~ Follow the footsteps of some of Ireland's illustrious literary figures such as Joyce, Yeats, Shaw, Beckett, Swift, Sheridan, and Wilde through their best-loved pubs and hostleries. Departs at 7:30 p.m. from The Duke Pub. Tour lasts 2 hrs.



- **Cork, Blarney Castle and the Queenstown Story by rail day tour** ~Visit Blarney Castle for an opportunity to kiss the famous stone with time for shopping and lunch on your own at Blarney Village before returning to Cork. Next you have a short city tour of Cork then a tour from Cork Harbour to Cobh where the Queenstown Story Heritage Centre is located at the site the old transatlantic terminal where generations of Irish emigrated to the new world. Lasts 13 hours. *(Includes round trip rail with reserved seat on train.)*

### **• Additional tours and excursions available**

**Day 7 ~ Dublin:** After your breakfast, you check out of the hotel for your return home or ready for another Avanti Destinations adventure. (Optional private transfer from your hotel to the airport is available.) *(Breakfast, Dublin)*

Note: *If you have never driven in the British Isles, we recommend you rent a car with an automatic transmission for reasons of ease of operation and safety.*



For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent.

Agency label or business card here

