

# Celtic Castles

**ITINERARY NIGHTS:** Limerick (1), Kilkenny (1), Dublin (2), Edinburgh (3)

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Adare Village • Bunratty Castle • Kilkenny Castle • Kildare Tour • St. Brigid's Shrine • Rock of Cashel • Dublin City Tour • Dublin Castle • Edinburgh City Tour • Edinburgh Castle • Stirling Castle • Braveheart Monument • St. Andrews Tour

**OPTIONS:** Dublin Theatre •



Encarta Interactive World Atlas, Corbis/Catherine Karnow

**DAY 1** Fly through the night to Ireland.

**DAY 2 LIMERICK** Arrive at Shannon airport. Welcome to the Emerald Isle! Your TSA Tours guide will meet you and escort you on a tour of **Adare**, a pretty village on the banks of the river Maigue, with black and white timbered houses and an ancient church. Also visit **Bunratty Castle**, the most complete and authentic medieval castle in Ireland. Continue to picturesque Limerick, located on the banks of the River Shannon.

**DAY 3 KILKENNY** Journey through spectacular scenery to the medieval capital of Ireland. With its narrow, winding streets and perfectly preserved old buildings, Kilkenny is a designated heritage town. Visit the 13<sup>th</sup> century **Kilkenny Castle** situated on the banks of the River Nore, and see St Canice's Cathedral, built in 1285. The afternoon is free, perhaps for some shopping at the Kilkenny Design Center, which showcases

the best in Irish designer goods, from jewelry and clothing to pottery and paintings.

**DAY 4 DUBLIN** Travel through the green grasslands of **Kildare**, famous for horse breeding and racing. Stop for a visit to the majestic 13<sup>th</sup> century cathedral flanked by an ancient round tower, built on the original site of a nunnery established by **Saint Brigid** in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Also visit the famous **Rock of Cashel**, home of the original cross of St. Patrick. Arrive in Dublin, a capital city that still retains its



Encarta Encyclopedia, REUTERS/Jeff J. Mitchell

unique village atmosphere.

**DAY 5 DUBLIN** On your guided **Dublin City Tour** see Merrion Square, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College, historic Phoenix Park, and visit **Dublin Castle** to see the magnificent state apartments.

**Option:** Attend a performance at the Abbey, the Gate, or another of Dublin's fine theatres.

**DAY 6 EDINBURGH** Transfer to Scotland by ferry. Edinburgh is one of Europe's great and beautiful cities, the jewel in Scotland's crown. Discover the capital on an **Edinburgh City Tour**. See St. Giles Cathedral, bustling Princes Street, and visit **Edinburgh Castle**, then stroll along the Royal Mile to Holyrood House, where Mary Queen of Scots lived before losing her head! **Option:** Enjoy more time in Edinburgh with a flight from Dublin.

**DAY 7 EDINBURGH** Travel through Trossachs, a region of



lovely lochs and glens, made popular by Sir Walter Scott in *Lady of the Lake*. Visit **Stirling Castle**, scene of much of Scotland's worst warfare. Visible to the south of the castle is the battlefield of Bannockburn, site of Robert the Bruce's epic victory over the English in 1314. Visit the William Wallace ("**Braveheart**") Monument with various items on show including Wallace's sword.

**DAY 8 EDINBURGH** Tour **St. Andrews**, recognized the world over as the "Home of Golf" since the game has been played here for 500 years. This seaside town is also home to Scotland's oldest university, founded in 411, where young Prince William is currently studying western art and its history. The rest of the day is free for discovery. **Option:** Spend one or more nights in an authentic Irish or Scottish castle during your travels!

**DAY 9 DEPART** Leave Britain behind and return home with visions of Celtic Castles.

*For more information, please contact:*