



BRENDAN
VACATIONS

REGIONAL GUIDE

Edinburgh

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Your Celtic Story Starts Here

Eclectic & Exciting

Get the most out of the enigmatic Scottish capital

This city is filled with stories, history and monuments at every corner. Called the 'Empress of the North' by Sir Walter Scott, Edinburgh is a cultural hub for arts and education, having enjoyed a longstanding reputation as a center for medical knowledge, as well as being listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for both its New and Old Towns. Simultaneously bold and mysterious, this city is a must-visit destination for history lovers and culture chasers alike.



Edinburgh Castle

Visit the home of the Stone of Destiny, the 15th-century siege cannon Mons Meg, the beautiful St. Margaret's Chapel, the luxurious Royal Apartments and the quiet reverence of the Scottish National War Memorial.

Free & fantastic

- St. Giles' Cathedral
- National Museum of Scotland
- Princes Street Gardens & The Scot Monument
- Greyfriar's Bobby Dog statue

Golf at Muirfield

Home of The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, Muirfield dates back to 1744.



Time it right

Edinburgh Festival

Throughout August

Hogmanay

Last week of December

Pride

Late June

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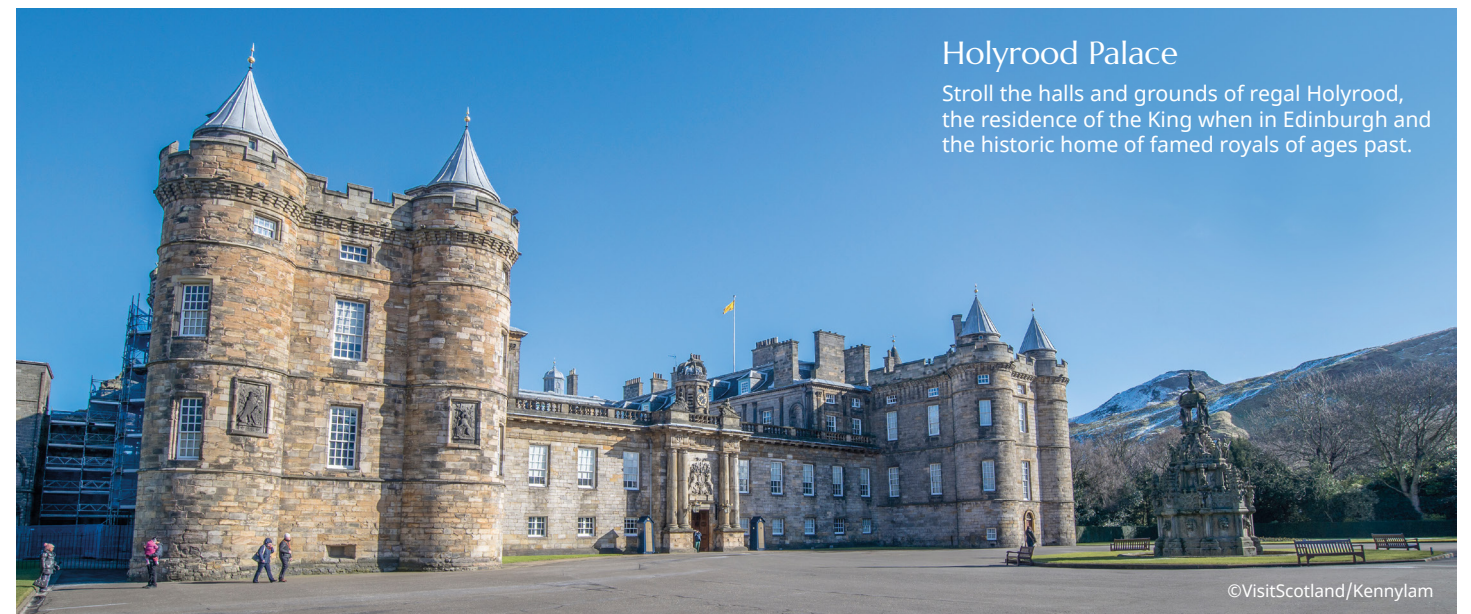
Edinburgh is where you'll find the history of the country and really feel connected to our people. It doesn't matter if you want to do castles, walk the Royal Mile, go off the beaten path or indulge in the city's thriving food and drink scene, there is always something to do throughout the year.

MICHAEL MCCARROLL | SALES MANAGER



Royal Yacht Britannia

The on-water home to the British Royal Family for over 40 years, sailing over 1,000,000 miles around the world.



Holyrood Palace

Stroll the halls and grounds of regal Holyrood, the residence of the King when in Edinburgh and the historic home of famed royals of ages past.

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Delve into a city cloaked in History & Mystery

What would an ancient capital be without its stories and legends? Myth, magic and history are interwoven through the alleyways known as 'closes', along the cobblestone streets and are even evident both above and below the city.

Secret streets

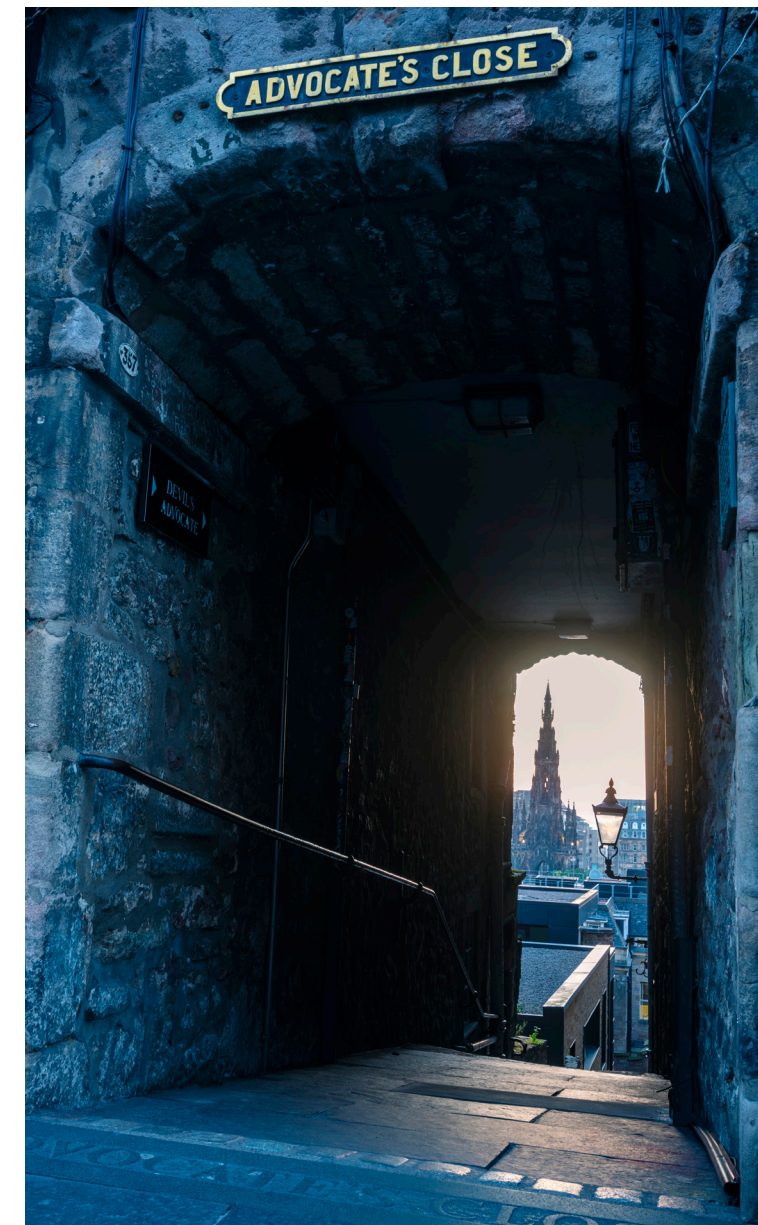
Embark on an exclusive and personalized private walking tour to uncover the 'Secrets of the Royal Mile'. Journey through the heart of Edinburgh's historic Old Town and unveil the rich history, hidden stories and unique charm of its most iconic street. Led by a Local Specialist, you'll explore the cobbled streets, winding closes and hidden courtyards that are steeped in centuries of history. Your guide will share captivating tales of the city's past, from the dramatic events of the medieval period to the lives of famous figures like Mary, Queen of Scots and numerous literary giants. Discover the secrets behind the grand façades and learn about the darker aspects of Edinburgh's history, including tales of witchcraft, crime and intrigue.

A legendary peak

Shrouded in mists and mysteries, the highest point of Holyrood Park is Arthur's Seat, a long-ago-chilled volcano whose top is the home of a large, weathered but well-preserved fort dating from around 2,000 years ago. Some stories name it as the site of King Arthur and his famed round table from long ago, while others add in tales of mythic beasts slumbering beneath the rolling peaks.

Strange things have been found in the crevices over the years, such as 17 tiny 'fairy coffins' with dolls discovered in 1836. There is nothing known of their origin, but theories have included being an homage to sailors lost at sea, forgotten rituals and even a supposed link to an early string of murders as recompense for deeds done nefariously.

We're glad to report that the activities of present-day Arthur's Seat have more to do with might than mysterious tidings. It's a very popular challenge for hikers to lace up their boots, put on their sunscreen and take to the hill to seat themselves in a place of legends.



Go underground

Beneath the city's famous cobblestones is a haunting labyrinth of chambers that hide an arcane history of torture, body snatching and wicked murder. For those with nerves of steel, The Doomed, Dead & Buried Tour explores the ancient catacombs. You'll be led by torchlight through vaults that are rumoured to be amongst Edinburgh's most haunted. This evening expedition offers an unnerving glimpse into a shocking history as you're taken through the Blair Street Underground Vaults and then onto a true ghost tour of Canongate graveyard.





ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

A celebration that will send a jolt through your soul with its bold presentation of lively bagpipes, drums, fireworks and kilted performers from Scotland and marching band style music and dance performance from around the world.



©RoyalEdinburghMilitaryTattoo



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A stunning spectacle

Showcasing the world's finest military bands, dancers and performers against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, this annual August event is a celebration of brigade, military, dance and drum corps excellence, interwoven with Scottish heritage and international camaraderie.



Summer nights

What started as a simple show in post-WWII Scotland, is now an annual highlight drawing tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world. Coming into its 75th year, the Tattoo is a do-not-miss, culturally immersive and emotionally stirring journey.



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Food & Drink

Where to sip, savor & *sláinte*

From the cozy charms of local pubs to exquisite fine dining experiences, Edinburgh's culinary scene is as rich and varied as its cultural heritage. As you stroll through the storied streets, your appetite will surely grow, and the city offers no shortage of ways to satisfy it.

Whether you're tasting a piece of the city's culture on a plate, indulging in innovative cuisine, visiting iconic eateries or revisiting timeless classics, Edinburgh ensures that every meal is an opportunity to savor its blend of tradition and sophistication.

For the finest of dining visit **The Witchery** at 352 Castlehill for a luxurious and atmospheric experience. Set within a historic 16th-century building, it offers opulent décor, candlelit elegance and a refined menu that celebrates Scottish cuisine.

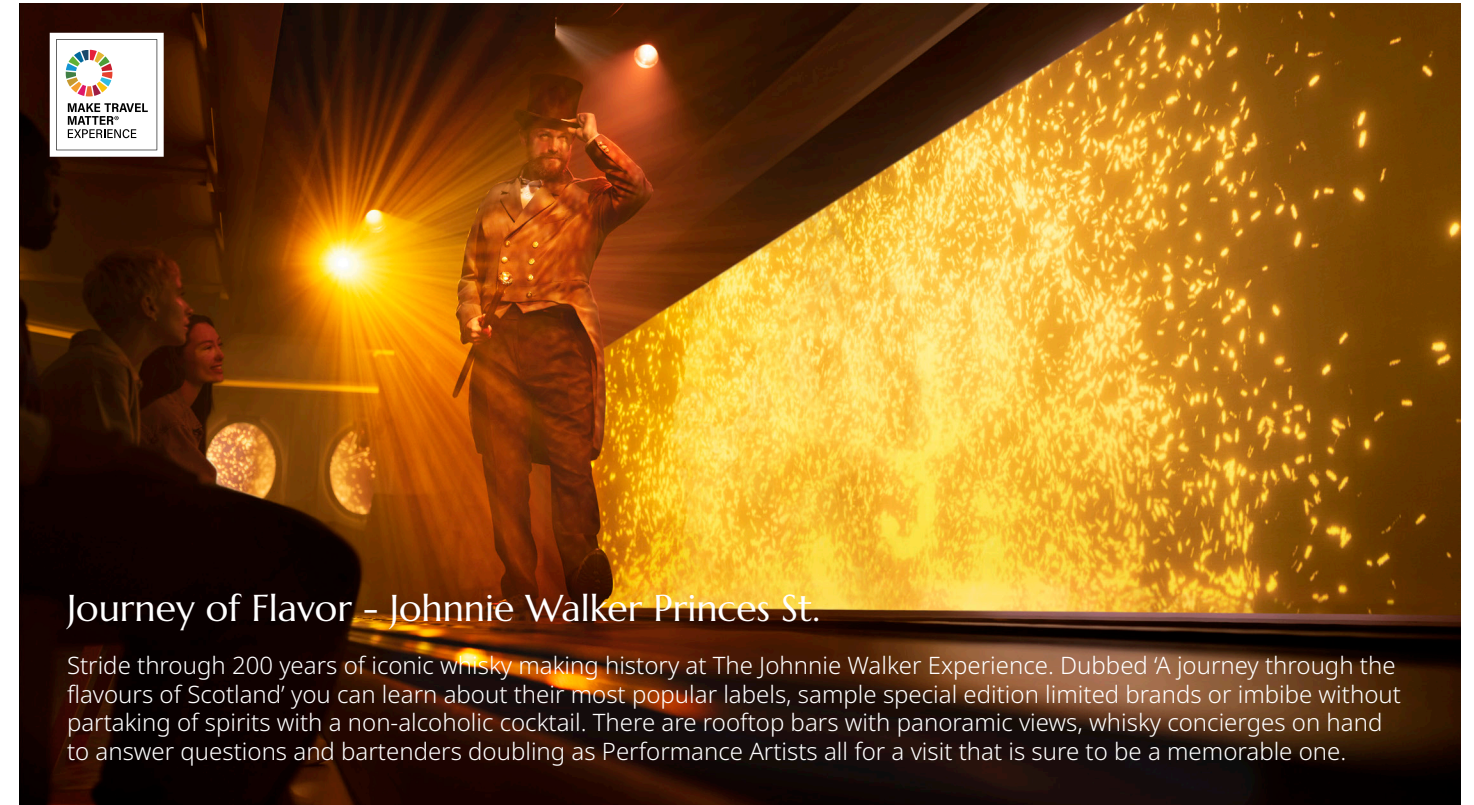
Seeking a blend of comfort and refinement? **Bon Vivant's Companion**, a Scottish-French fusion restaurant located at 55-57 Thistle Street offers simple, well-executed dishes that focus on flavor and quality produce.

Aizle Edinburgh is known for its experimental fine dining tasting menus, where everything from the bread, butter and the aquavit are all made in-house at 38 Charlotte Square. The **Café Royal Oyster Bar & Restaurant** is a highly stylized classic Victorian upscale restaurant specializing in seafood and iconic Scottish dishes at 19 Register Street.

If you have a taste for the warmth and welcome of a Scottish pub, we'd suggest **The World's End** at 2-8 High Street or the **Whiski Bar & Restaurant** at 119 High Street where you can't go wrong with their fare or tap options.

If your thirsty for distillery experiences, head to the trending neighborhood of Leith. At the **Leith Distillery** (11 Whisky Quay), enjoy a tour, tasting and exploration of the incredible architecture of the world's tallest distillery. If gin is more your tippie, head to the **Lind & Lime Gin Distillery** at 24 Coburg St, for a tour that includes bottle filling, cocktail making and of course, tastings.

Saving the sweetest for last, **Greyfriars Bobby's Bar** at 30-34 Candlemaker Row. Its name was inspired by the Edinburgh legend of a scruffy Skye terrier called Bobby who was the 'partner' of police officer John Gray. When John died in 1858, Bobby faithfully watched over his grave and was buried alongside his master in the Greyfriars Kirkyard in 1872. Inside the bar you'll find an array of Scottish classics and a variety of meat pies. Outside you'll see a beloved monument to Bobby. Touching his nose is supposed to bring you good luck, which is why it's noticeably bright and bronze from all the petting over the years.



Journey of Flavor - Johnnie Walker Princes St.

Stride through 200 years of iconic whisky making history at The Johnnie Walker Experience. Dubbed 'A journey through the flavours of Scotland' you can learn about their most popular labels, sample special edition limited brands or imbibe without partaking of spirits with a non-alcoholic cocktail. There are rooftop bars with panoramic views, whisky concierges on hand to answer questions and bartenders doubling as Performance Artists all for a visit that is sure to be a memorable one.



Scotch Whisky Experience

The Scotch Whisky Experience is a 5-star education in whisky for every kind of guest, from aficionado to novice. Uncover Scotland's 'water of life' by learning about the distilling process, taking a whisky masterclass and sampling drams from Scotland's largest public whisky collection.



Eat Walk Edinburgh

Taste your way through town on this food walking tour filled with foods, facts and history. Discover the flavor of the city in the company of your Local Specialist 'Foodie Historian' guide, stop in restaurants, cafés and specialty shops for samples of local produce and hear insightful stories along the way.

ACCOMMODATION SPOTLIGHT

The Caledonian

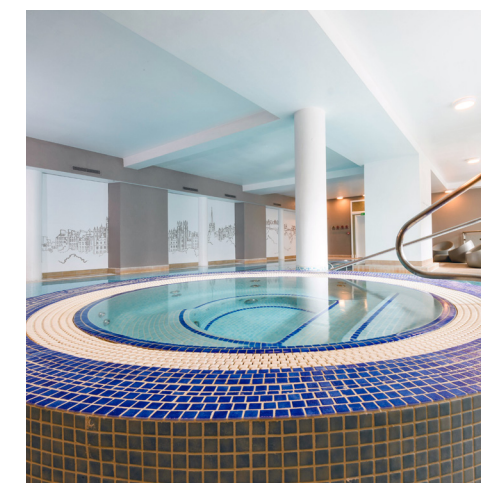
Boasting a storied reputation of excellence, this 5-star stay is instantly recognizable by its warm red façade and offers guests a unique blend of rich history and modern sophistication.

This historic landmark exudes timeless elegance and charm. Originally built in 1903 as a railway station, it has since become one of the city's most luxurious accommodations.

The impressive interiors feature beautifully restored architecture, luxurious rooms and opulent public spaces. The range of amenities includes the award-winning Pompadour restaurant and the Guerlain Spa.

With an enviable location at the west end of Princes Street, the hotel's prime location also makes it a perfect base for exploring the cultural and historical treasures of Edinburgh, like the Royal Mile, the National Gallery and the vibrant shopping districts.

Whether you're visiting Edinburgh for business or leisure, The Caledonian provides an unparalleled experience of Scottish hospitality in the heart of Scotland's capital.



FROM THE EXPERTS

24 Hours in...

What to do if you only have one day in Edinburgh as recommended by one of our Celtic Experts.

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Only 24 hours in Edinburgh might seem like a tall order, but you're never far away from just about anything you could want.

I'd start my day by treating myself to a sausage roll or a tattie and bean pie from a nearby bakery then take a morning stroll across Princes Street, visiting the gardens, before doing a bit of light shopping.



This majestic castle offers an incredible panoramic view of the city below and there is genuinely so much on offer that I would struggle to fit it into a single visit. Rest assured, regardless of your affinity for history, culture or even the many myths that permeate the walls, you'll find something here that will leave a lasting impression.

Afterwards, I'd take a saunter down to Greyfriars Bobby. A small pub with a very big heart, making sure to pet the polished golden nose of the statue of Bobby before entering. As a dog lover, the story of Greyfriars Bobby tugs at my heartstrings every time and so I make that pilgrimage and enjoy a pub lunch.

Now that my appetite has finally been satiated, I'd make my way down the cobbled streets of the Royal Mile and indulge in a tour, learning about all the tales of political intrigue and hard-fought battles throughout the century. The local expert will have you bobbing in and out of the many closes, seeing all the historic plaques and absorbing as much history and culture as you could possibly fit into a couple hours, before ending up at Edinburgh Castle at the end of the road.



Before I leave the Royal Mile entirely, I'd also stop in at the Camera Obscura, a truly fascinating building of illusions and curiosities. I would spend as much time there as I could, staring up at the cityscapes projected onto the buildings inner dome.

At night, I would take myself out and enjoy a spooky time on the Doomed, Dead and Buried tour. A ghostly tour through the veritable warren of Edinburgh's underground passages, some of which are famous (or infamous) to the residents, while others are mysteries even until this day. If you're a big *fierty* (fraidy cat) like myself, there are catacomb tours that don't delve into the dark and mysterious, though if your heart can take it, go for that lasting experience. You just might meet an ancestor!

Lastly, I'd cap things off with a final pint at any pub that looks particularly lively and soak up the songs and charm of Scotland's capital, before retiring to my hotel and giving my legs a well deserved rest.

Haste ye back!

MICHAEL MCCARROLL | SALES MANAGER



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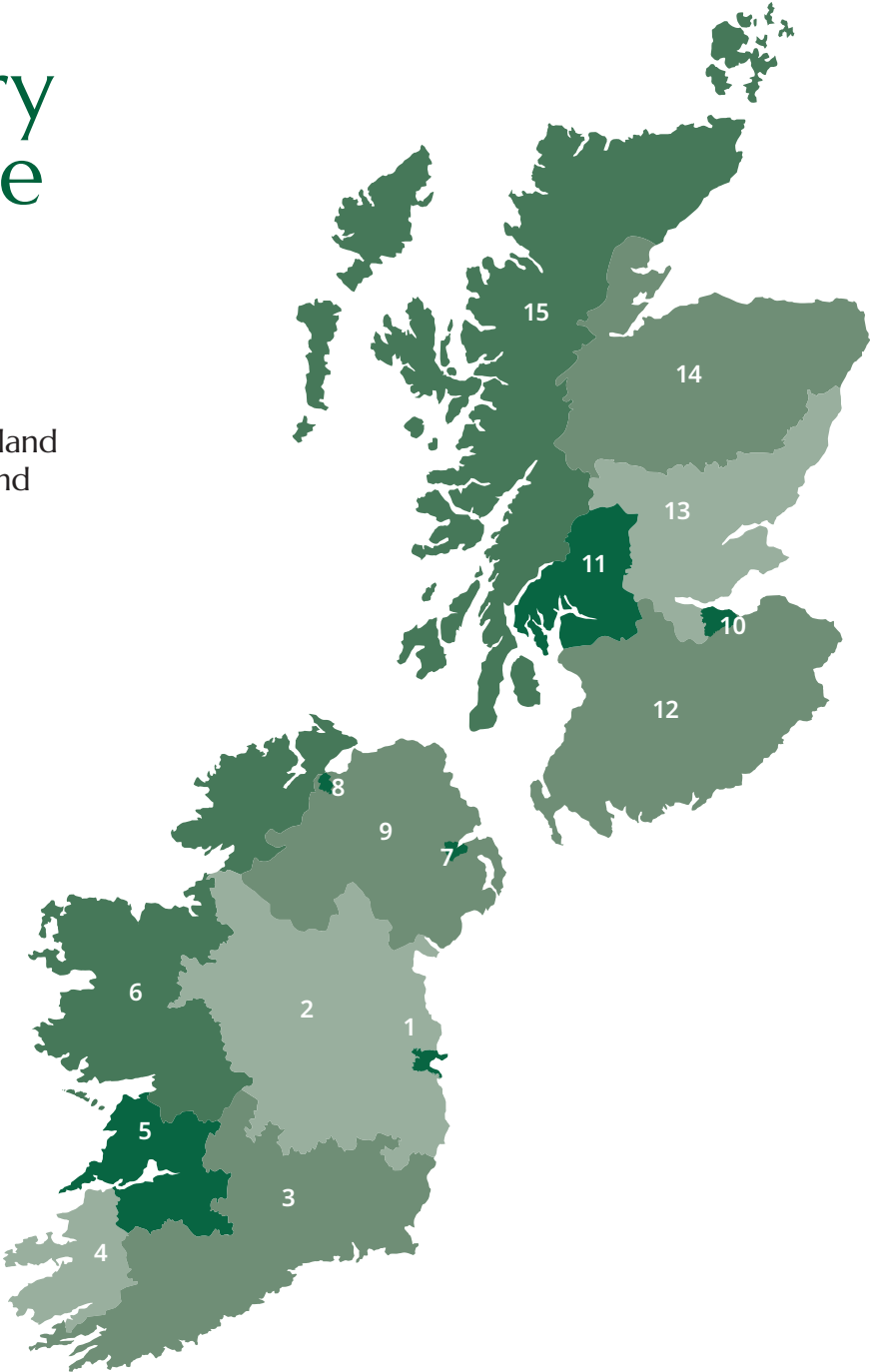


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Excitement, connection, history, romance and more than a little Celtic magic. Every region of Ireland & Scotland has its own stories and we're here to help tell them.

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