

# EXPEDITIONS



## SIGNATURE: NORTHERN IRELAND'S EMERALD COAST & GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

8 days, Ennistymon to Belfast

Trip code EQEBNS

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group, Ennistymon
- Your Foodie Moment: Traditional Pub Dinner, Westport
- Your Foodie Moment: Private Whiskey Cellar Tasting, Lough Eske Castle
- Signature Moment: Signature Moment at Derry Museum Group fee, Derry
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Guided Tour of Inisheer
- Guided Walking Tour of Galway
- Orientation Walk in Westport
- Clew Bay Cruise
- Orientation Walk in Sligo
- Drumcliff Church and Yeats' Tomb Visit
- Private Tour of Lough Eske Castle
- Visit to Slieve League
- Visit to Donegal Town
- Free Time to Enjoy Lough Eske Castle grounds
- Guided Tour of Derry
- Visit to Giant's Causeway
- Black Cab Tour of Belfast
- Clifton House Visit and Lunch
- Titanic Museum Visit
- Engaging Discussions with the National Geographic Expedition Expert Throughout
- Porterage at hotels and when getting on and off of vehicles
- Tips are included for all activities, meals and porterage, except for your Expedition Leader
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing March 8th, 2026 and onwards

## ITINERARY

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**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## ENNISTYMON

Welcome to the Emerald Isle. Your expedition begins in the Ennis area, where the air is often thick with the scent of woodsmoke and the promise of Atlantic mist. You will be met and transferred to your hotel to settle into the rhythmic pace of Irish life. Later, gather with your National Geographic Expedition Leader, National Geographic Expedition Expert and fellow travellers for a welcome presentation that sets the stage for the heritage and history ahead. Share stories over a dinner of traditional fare, raising a glass to the start of your exploration through a region defined by its rugged beauty and enduring heritage before resting for the adventures that lie ahead on the western coast.

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### Meals included

Dinner

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### ACCOMMODATION

Falls Hotel & Spa (or similar) Hotel

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### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Arrival Transfer

Shannon - Ennistymon

1h

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to start your adventure.

#### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your Expedition Leader and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group. There will be an included group welcome dinner after the meeting.

Day 2

## ENNISTYMON/WESTPORT

The jagged Atlantic coastline leads to Doolin, where you board a ferry for a crisp crossing to Inis Oírr. Feel the salt spray on your face as you arrive at this soul-stirring island. Explore the island with a local guide, wandering a labyrinth of dry-stone walls and coastal heritage that has barely changed in centuries. After a relaxed lunch overlooking the sea, a local guide leads you through Galway's vibrant Latin Quarter, where the echoes of maritime history meet a modern hub of art and music. The day concludes on arrival at your majestic manor house-style hotel where a gourmet dinner awaits, surrounded by the quiet grandeur of the estate.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Grace Hotel (or similar) **Hotel**

The Grace offers a rare blend of authentic Irish heritage and contemporary indulgence. It is the Wild Atlantic Way's most significant luxury landmark—a place to dream boldly, live beautifully, and lose track of time in the heart of the West.



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle **Ennistymon - Doolin** 30m-45m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ferry **Doolin - Inisheer** 30m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Guided Tour of Inisheer **Inisheer** 3h30m-3h30m

A day trip to Inisheer involves trading your coach for a ferry a short ride to the smallest Aran Island, just enough time to feel the salt air and watch the Cliffs of Moher loom in the distance. You'll pass endless networks of hand-built stone walls, a shipwreck rusting on the shore, and a 10th-century church that has slowly sunk into the sand over the centuries. Everything is quiet. You'll hear the local Gaelic language being spoken in the shops and the distant sound of the sea against the rocks. After lunch on the island, board the ferry back to the mainland to continue your journey.

Ferry **Inisheer - Doolin** 30m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Private Vehicle **Doolin - Galway City** 1h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Guided Walking Tour of Galway **Galway City** 1h30m-1h30m

Explore the vibrant streets of Galway, a city celebrated as the primary center for Irish art, music, and theater. This guided walking tour takes you through the lively Latin Quarter and Eyre Square, stopping at the historic Spanish Arch and the scenic banks of the River Corrib. It is a perfect way to experience the "City of Tribes" and its unique blend of medieval history and modern creativity.

Private Vehicle **Galway City - Westport** 1h15m-1h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 3

## WESTPORT

Take in the dramatic glacial corridor of the Inagh Valley, including the Twelve Bens and Maumturks mountains rising like stone sentinels over the moorlands. Today you explore Westport, a Georgian gem where stone bridges frame the Carrowbeg River, and explore the harbour's independent galleries. Board a cruise to navigate the 365 islands of Clew Bay, the holy peak of Croagh Patrick watching from a distance. Enjoy free time to enjoy Westport or the grounds of your hotel. In the evening experience a local style dinner in town.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Grace Hotel (or similar) **Hotel**

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## TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Orientation Walk in Westport Westport 1h

This short walk takes you from your hotel into the heart of Westport, which is often called one of Ireland's most beautiful towns. You will start by walking toward the center of town along The Mall. This is a scenic, tree-lined road that runs parallel to the Carrowbeg River. As you leave the river behind, you will walk into The Octagon, the main square of Westport. In the center of the square, you'll see a large stone pedestal with a statue. This is the traditional meeting point for the town.

Clew Bay Cruise Westport 1h30m

The cruise offers a relaxing tour of Clew Bay's famous drumlin islands and local seal colonies. Enjoy unique views of the Holy Mountain: Croagh Patrick, the historic Inishgort Lighthouse and John Lennon's Island, all from a comfortable, all-weather vessel.

### ACTIVITY

Enjoy dinner in a local pub style establishment tonight. The experience is as much about the "craic" (social atmosphere) as it is about the food. It represents the very best of West Ireland hospitality.

Head toward the wild northwest, pausing in coastal Sligo before reaching Drumcliffe – where W.B. Yeats rests beneath a simple headstone in a quiet churchyard, the outline of Ben Bulbin visible on the horizon. The landscape shifts as you cross into Northern Ireland and arrive at a magnificent lakeside castle tucked deep into ancient forest. A private tour of the estate reveals the architecture and ambitions of the families who once called these halls home. As twilight settles over the water, dinner in the castle is followed by a quiet evening in the library or beside a roaring fire.



## Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



## ACCOMMODATION

Lough Eske Castle (or similar) Hotel

Nestled at the foot of the Blue Stack Mountains on the shores of tranquil Lough Eske, Lough Eske Castle traces its origins to the 15th century as the ancestral seat of the powerful O'Donnell clan, rulers of Donegal and key figures in Ireland's Gaelic history. Over the centuries, the estate became intertwined with the political and cultural life of the region, hosting clan leaders, nobles, and visiting dignitaries during pivotal moments in Irish history.

The surrounding landscape has long inspired writers and cultural figures connected with Donegal's heritage, and the castle has welcomed a distinguished modern clientele including public figures, artists, and international guests drawn to its romance and seclusion. Reimagined in the 19th century as a Victorian castle residence and carefully restored in recent decades, the property today balances historic grandeur with contemporary comfort.

Stone turrets, sweeping grounds, and woodland walks frame elegant interiors, while spacious rooms overlook gardens, forest, or the lough itself. Guests choose Lough Eske Castle for its dramatic setting, deep clan legacy, and proximity to Donegal's rugged coastline and Glenveagh National Park – returning each evening to fine dining, fireside lounges, and tranquil spa facilities.

Atmospheric and storied, Lough Eske Castle offers a stay shaped by Gaelic history, Highland landscape, and the enduring allure of Ireland's northwest



## TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle

Westport - Sligo

1h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Orientation Walk in Sligo **Sligo** 1h-1h

Walk through Sligo alongside your Expedition Leader to discover 'Yeats Country,' a land where ancient mythology meets wild Atlantic beauty. Nestled between the iconic, flat-topped silhouette of Benbulbin mountain and the rhythmic roll of the ocean, Sligo offers a blend of literary history, Neolithic wonders, and a thriving modern food scene.

Private Vehicle **Sligo - Drumcliff** 15m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Drumcliff Church and Yeats' Tomb Visit **Drumcliff** 1h30m

Take a walk around Drumcliff, known for its early Christian architecture like the ruins of a typical Irish round tower (bell tower), a monastery, and a high cross with intricate carvings. Visit the graveyard of Duncliff Church to see the humble grave of the famous poet WB Yeats.

Private Vehicle **Drumcliff - Lough Eske Castle** 1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Private Tour of Lough Eske Castle **Lough Eske Castle** 30m-1h

A tour of Lough Eske Castle offers a blend of tragic history and triumphant restoration. From the 19th-century sandstone exterior to the world-class photography collection inside, it provides a luxurious but grounded look at Donegal's aristocratic past and its vibrant, five-star present.

The Slieve League Cliffs tower nearly 2,000 feet above the crashing Atlantic and are among the most dramatic seascapes in all of Europe. Walk the clifftop trails before traveling to a working hand-weaving mill for a glimpse into Irish heritage as you wander past century-old wooden looms and watch master weavers rhythmically "throw the shuttle" to transform vibrant local wool into world-class tweed. Afterwards, continue to Donegal Town, where the imposing Donegal Castle sits at the banks of the River Eske – a striking blend of Gaelic and English stonework that has weathered centuries of history. Browse the local shops before returning to your lakeside retreat for a rare-access whiskey cellar tasting led by a specialist, exploring the nuanced flavours of local spirits. Dinner follows, celebrating the culinary traditions of the rugged northwest.



## Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



## ACCOMMODATION

Lough Eske Castle (or similar) Hotel

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## TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle **Lough Eske Castle - Slieve League** 1h-1h15m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Visit to Slieve League **Slieve League** 1h-1h

Standing on the viewing platform at Slieve League (Sliabh Liag) is a humbling encounter with the raw edge of Europe. Nearly three times taller than the Cliffs of Moher, a visit to here offers one of the most dramatic coastal vistas in the world. One of the most striking things about the platform is the sound. Because you are so high up, the roar of the massive Atlantic waves hitting the base of the cliff reaches you as a soft, rhythmic hiss.

Private Vehicle **Slieve League - Donegal** 1h-1h15m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Visit to Genuine Working Mill **Donegal** 45m

Explore behind the scenes of the genuine working mill, where all the cloths are hand woven, and all the garments are artisan made. View each step of the process involved in creating our throws, garments and accessories. The traditional craft of hand weaving is an integral part of the intangible cultural heritage of the area. See the passionate people behind preserving the skill of hand weaving, the only method used in producing all these local tweeds.

Visit to Donegal Town **Donegal** 2h

Enjoy an Expedition Leader led orientation walk of Donegal Town starting at The Diamond, the heart of the town and ending with a view of the historic Donegal Castle. A stroll along the Bank Walk offers a peaceful riverside with lovely views of the Old Abbey ruins across the water and the local fishing boats bobbing in the tide. Enjoy free time to settle into a traditional pub or a cozy cafe for a hearty lunch before returning to the hotel.

Private Vehicle **Donegal - Lough Eske Castle** 15m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time to Enjoy Lough Eske **Lough Eske Castle** 3h

A stay at Lough Eske Castle is defined by "unapologetic relaxation." From exploring the Father Browne photo galleries and walking the lakeside trails to unwinding in the infinity pool, the estate provides a perfect balance of historic discovery and five-star wellness in the heart of Donegal. Perhaps join your Expedition Leader for a short walk to the restaurant at Harvey's Point, it's a local tradition to "castle hop" for a drink on their pier-side terrace.

ACTIVITY

Hosted in the atmospheric Father Browne Bar, the experience features curated flights of premium Irish spirits, including the legendary local Silkie Whiskey, paired with expert storytelling by the castle's passionate bartenders.

Day 6

## DONEGAL/BELFAST

A day of powerful contrasts begins in Derry at the Museum of Free Derry, where a member of the Derry Trust shares a deeply personal account of the city's most defining events – a story told with a candour and humanity that no guidebook can replicate. Walk the 17th-century walls before the landscape opens dramatically at the UNESCO-listed Giant's Causeway. Stand among 40,000 interlocking basalt columns that rise like a geometric installation from the sea, as your National Geographic Expedition Expert weaves local folklore into the geology beneath your feet. As evening approaches, Belfast emerges on the horizon – a revitalised maritime city that wears its complex history with remarkable openness.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

The Fitzwilliam Hotel Belfast (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle Lough Eske Castle - Derry

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### ACTIVITY

A poignant morning begins with pre-opening visit for a solemn and academic deep dive into the story of Free Derry. Guided by a specialist from the Bloody Sunday Trust, you will receive a private lecture that weaves together historical facts with powerful personal narratives, all within the silent, sacred space of the Free Derry museum before it opens to the world.

Guided Tour of Derry Derry 1h

A walking tour of Derry starts on the 17th-century walls for a panoramic view of the city's colonial history before descending into the Bogside. In the Bogside, you move through the "People's Gallery" of political murals and visit Free Derry Corner, ending with a message of modern reconciliation at the Peace Bridge.

Private Vehicle Derry - Giants Causeway 1h-1h15m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Visit to Giant's Causeway

Giants Causeway

2h15m

A visit to the Giant's Causeway is a surreal encounter with 60 million years of history. Whether you're there for the volcanic geology or the tales of Irish giants, the sight of thousands of geometric pillars marching into the ocean is a bucket-list experience that feels truly otherworldly.

Private Vehicle

Giants Causeway - Belfast

1h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 7

## BELFAST

Belfast reveals its layered identity this morning on a classic Black Cab tour with a local. — traversing the Falls and Shankill roads where vivid murals and Peace Walls tell a story of division, resilience, and hard-won progress. For lunch, Clifton House offers a catered meal at a heritage centre—your visit directly supports community care and philanthropy across the city. The afternoon immerses you in maritime history at the Titanic Museum, where the story of the world's most famous vessel unfolds in the very shipyard where it was born. This evening enjoy a celebratory farewell dinner, toasting the landscapes, stories, and connections forged across the emerald coasts.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

The Fitzwilliam Hotel Belfast (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Black Cab Tour of Belfast Belfast 1h30m

A Black Cab tour is an immersive masterclass in conflict and reconciliation. It takes you beyond the tourist trail into the Falls and Shankill roads to see the iconic political murals and the Peace Wall. With a local driver as your storyteller, you'll gain a balanced, personal perspective on the city's complex history and its remarkable journey toward the vibrant Belfast of today.

Clifton House Visit Belfast 2h

Titanic Museum Visit Belfast 1h-2h

Witness the spot where the iconic Titanic was built and launched. Within the ship liner shaped building, you can find a museum dedicated to the ship's construction, replicas of the passengers accommodation, rare footage documenting the ship's existence, and the history of Belfast.

Day 8

## BELFAST

Your expedition to Northern Ireland concludes this morning. Enjoy a final breakfast before a private transfer takes you to the airport. As you depart, carry with you the echoes of castle fires, the salt-spray of the Atlantic, and the enduring spirit of the people who call this storied corner of the world home.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Departure Transfer

Belfast

30m

You will be met at your hotel and transferred to Belfast International Airport at the end of your adventure.

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group, Ennistymon
- Your Foodie Moment: Traditional Pub Dinner, Westport
- Your Foodie Moment: Private Whiskey Cellar Tasting, Lough Eske Castle
- Signature Moment: Signature Moment at Derry Museum Group fee, Derry
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Guided Tour of Inisheer
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- Free Time to Enjoy Lough Eske Castle grounds

- Guided Tour of Derry
- Visit to Giant's Causeway
- Black Cab Tour of Belfast
- Clifton House Visit and Lunch
- Titanic Museum Visit
- Engaging Discussions with the National Geographic Expedition Expert Throughout
- Porterage at hotels and when getting on and off of vehicles
- Tips are included for all activities, meals and porterage, except for your Expedition Leader
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Hear a local account of historic events during a private talk at the poignant Museum of Free Derry, Savour the complex notes of Irish spirits during a private whiskey cellar tasting at Lough Eske Castle, Enjoy a catered lunch at Clifton House Lunch heritage centre that supports local communities.

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## Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?

This compiled itinerary represents our thoughtfully designed plan, provided in good faith and correct at the time of publication. However, to ensure we deliver the most rewarding experience possible, our itineraries remain dynamic; we continuously refine our routes based on research, field insights, and guest feedback, meaning details may evolve between the release of our annual directory and your departure. Flexibility is a cornerstone of our travel philosophy, and while we intend to follow the path described, the nature of exploring unpredictable environments means alterations may occur, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife encounters cannot be guaranteed. We invite you to view these travel times and details as an approximate guide rather than a strict contract, and we kindly ask that you review a final copy of your Trip Details a few days prior to departure to ensure you have the most current information for your upcoming expedition.

## **What is the role of the group leader during this trip?**

Every National Geographic Signature departure is accompanied throughout by a dedicated National Geographic Expedition Leader, whose purpose is to ensure a seamless experience so you can fully immerse yourself in the destination. Your Expedition Leader offers deep insight into the landscapes you traverse, suggests enriching independent activities, recommends exceptional local dining venues, and connects you with our community friends along the way. Rather than acting as conventional guides, they possess a broad, sophisticated understanding of the historical, cultural, religious, and social tapestry of the region. To offer the ultimate perspective, we complement their expertise with specialist local guides whose deep regional knowledge adds profound depth to specific sites—delivering a masterfully balanced exploration.

## **How large will the group be?**

Max. 22, Avg. 16

## **What meals are included in this trip?**

7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners

## **What are the modes of transportation on my trip?**

Private Vehicle, Ferry, Walking

## **Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?**

Yes, for those travelling solo there is a single supplement.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Hotel (7 nights).

## **What are the joining instructions?**

To review the specific details of your starting property, please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

A seamless arrival transfer is included for guests landing on the first day of the itinerary, or up to three days prior if your pre-trip accommodations were arranged directly through G Adventures at our starting property. To maintain the exceptional quality and continuity of your experience, all scheduled services must run consecutively.

Upon arriving at the starting property, where check-in begins typically by 3:00PM, please look for a dedicated notice from your National Geographic Expedition Leader at the reception desk. This message will outline the specific details for our evening welcome reception and meeting—typically held between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.—where you will gather with your Expedition Leader, Expedition Expert, and fellow travellers to look ahead at the days to come. Should you arrive later in the evening and miss this initial gathering, your Expedition Leader will leave a comprehensive briefing note for you at reception detailing the next morning's schedule.

Please note that the joining day of the itinerary can vary, please refer to your specific itinerary for further details.

## **What happens if I experience problems when arriving?**

While we anticipate a seamless arrival, your peace of mind is our utmost priority. Should any unforeseen circumstances prevent you from beginning your expedition as scheduled, please refer to the essential emergency contact details provided in your documentation and contact us as soon as possible.

Upon landing, if you do not connect with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend making your own way to the starting point property by following the Joining Instructions. Rest assured, you may submit a request to your travel professional upon your return to secure a refund for any transport costs incurred during this time.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you require urgent assistance during your travels, your first point of contact should be our local representative or regional office. If your call is not answered immediately, please leave a detailed message with your contact information so our team can return your call and assist you as quickly as possible. The numbers can be found below.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER

G Adventures Berlin office: +441858378000

In addition, a dedicated toll-free line is available for guests within North America, connecting you directly to our global operations team during regular business hours. For support outside of standard hours, an emergency mobile line is actively monitored day and night to ensure you are never out of reach. In the rare event that your call is not answered immediately, please leave a detailed message along with your contact information so our team can return your call and assist you as swiftly as possible.

Toll-free (North America only): 1-800-465-5600

From the United Kingdom: 0870 080 1756

International (Outside North America and the UK): +1 416 260 0999

Emergency Mobile: (416) 305-6139

Your included arrival transfer has been meticulously arranged based on the flight details you provided. If you experience a flight schedule change or cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival, please contact our emergency number immediately with your updated details. Prompt notification ensures we can adjust your transfer; otherwise, you will need to arrange your own transportation to the starting property. Upon arrival, if your transfer representative does not connect with you within 30 minutes of exiting the arrivals area, please take a local taxi directly to the starting property.

## What information should I be aware of as the itinerary draws to a close?

You will be met at your hotel property and transferred to the airport for your onward travels at the end of your expedition. Please refer to your individual itinerary for more details.

## Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

When deciding what to pack, considerations will vary based on your specific itinerary, the regions you are visiting, and the season in which you are travelling. Generally speaking, we recommend packing thoughtfully and keeping your luggage to one checked bag at a manageable weight to facilitate seamless transitions throughout your expedition.

In addition to your primary luggage, you will also require a small day pack or shoulder bag. This smaller bag is essential for keeping your camera, water, and personal items close at hand during day walks, excursions, and daily explorations.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

## Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

**Smart Dress:**

- Smart outfit (For evenings out)

**Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

## What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

Securing the necessary visas and travel documentation is an essential step in preparing for your upcoming expedition, and remains the responsibility of each individual traveller. Entry requirements fluctuate depending on your nationality and destination; while we strive to provide the most current information, immigration regulations change frequently. We strongly advise verifying all entry protocols directly with the relevant embassy or consulate well in advance of your departure. Please also ensure your passport remains valid for at least six months beyond your scheduled departure date from the country.

For tailored details specific to your nationality and destination, please consult our dedicated pre-departure resource page at

[here](#)

Travelling in Europe has been simplified with the introduction of the Schengen visa. As a visitor to the Schengen area (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Italy, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) you will enjoy the many advantages of this unified visa system. Generally speaking with a Schengen visa, you may enter one Schengen country and travel freely throughout the Schengen region during the validity of your visa. There are limited border controls at Schengen borders, if any at all.

Please note that the UK and Ireland are NOT part of the Schengen agreement.

A Schengen visa is applied for at the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country in which you will be spending the most nights on your trip to the Schengen space. If you are only visiting one country on your trip then you apply for your visa at the Consulate of this Schengen country.

As of 2025, various European countries are introducing ETIAS travel authorisation as an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals.

We highly recommend you checking in advance how your nationality and country/s you are visiting may be affected. Further details can be found [here](#).

## **What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?**

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## **What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?**

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances. Visa cards are the most widely accepted cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work. Check with your bank. You should be aware when purchasing products or services on a credit card, that a fee usually applies. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of Euros and cards is best. Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

## **How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?**

While personal spending habits naturally vary, we recommend factoring in your individual preferences for shopping, tipping, and beverages to ensure a seamless experience. In addition to these day-to-day comforts, we kindly ask that you maintain access to a minimum of USD \$200 (or its equivalent) as a dedicated emergency fund; though exceptionally rare, unpredictable circumstances such as changing weather patterns or natural events may occasionally necessitate a shift from our planned route, and this reserve ensures we can navigate any path ahead with peace of mind.

## **Should I be tipping on my trip?**

To ensure a seamless and elevated experience throughout your National Geographic Signature departure, gratuities have been fully taken care of for all included meals, activities, and luggage portage.

On our National Geographic Signature tours, tipping is included for all included activities and meals, and portage. Tipping is not included for the Expedition Leader. Should you want some basic guidelines on tipping for the activities you do on your own, please see below. At the end of each trip if you felt your National Geographic Signature Expedition Leader did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline would be \$10-\$15 per person per day. Tipping is neither required nor expected for your National Geographic Expedition Expert.

For the independent moments on your itinerary, tipping is generally not expected across Central Asia. However, should you wish to reward exceptional service during independent dining or activities, a modest gratuity of 3-5% is entirely appropriate and warmly received by local community members.

## What activities are optional on this trip?

- No optional activities

## Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note that health requirements and recommended inoculations vary by destination. To ensure your well-being, it is your responsibility to consult with a specialized travel physician for up-to-date medical guidance well before departure.

We highly recommend carrying a personal first aid kit, hand sanitizer, and any essential prescription medications. Because our itineraries frequently trace paths through remote regions far from advanced medical facilities, legal regulations prohibit our National Geographic Expedition Leaders from administering any medication, including standard over-the-counter pain relievers. While local pharmacies along our route may stock familiar remedies, they are often produced under regional names, so we advise bringing the generic chemical name of any critical prescription. Before finalising your plans, please carefully review the itinerary and physical requirements to ensure your personal fitness aligns with our style of exploration. To safeguard the well-being of the group, we reserve the right to excuse any traveller from all or part of an itinerary if, in the professional judgment of our Expedition Leader, continuing would pose an undue risk to themselves or their fellow travellers.

## What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

To ensure your well-being and security throughout our explorations, we recommend consulting your home government's regularly updated international travel advisories prior to departure. For peace of mind while on the move, we strongly advise using a concealed neck wallet or money belt to secure your passport, travel documentation, and currency. We suggest leaving exceptional jewelry at home, as it is unnecessary for our style of travel; instead, make use of the safety deposit boxes available at most of our accommodations. Securing your luggage with a reliable lock is also highly recommended.

When travelling on a departure, your National Geographic Expedition Leader maintains the authority to modify or adapt any portion of the itinerary should environmental conditions or safety considerations require it. Your Expedition Leader accompanies the group on all scheduled activities, but you will also enjoy unstructured time to pursue personal interests, relax, or discover locales at your leisure. While your leader is delighted to suggest local options for these independent periods, please note that these optional choices do not form part of our curated itinerary, and we make no representations regarding their operating standards; we encourage you to exercise your own discerning judgment.

While the destinations we visit are welcoming during the daytime, navigating urban environments at night requires mindfulness. We recommend exploring in small groups and utilizing local taxis when dining out or moving about after dark. Furthermore, should you encounter public demonstrations or political gatherings, please prioritize your safety by leaving the vicinity immediately rather than remaining for photographs, as these situations can evolve rapidly.

Water-based experiences carry inherent risks. To ensure your protection, we recommend participating in aquatic activities only when accompanied by professional guides. Our commitment to safety means that our Expedition Leaders are strictly prohibited from facilitating unguided water activities on your behalf. Please note that swimming and snorkelling are always undertaken at your own risk. For further insights on enhancing your personal safety during your voyage, please visit [www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/](http://www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/).

## What are the trip specific safety considerations?

For peace of mind while on the move, we strongly advise using a concealed neck wallet or money belt to secure your passport, travel documentation, and currency. We suggest leaving exceptional jewelry at home, as it is unnecessary for our style of travel; instead, make use of the safety deposit boxes available at most of our accommodations. Securing your luggage with a reliable lock is also highly recommended.

## What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Our philosophy of travel is rooted in deep respect for the people, cultures, and lands we encounter. To ensure the safety of our travellers, staff, and the communities that welcome us, the possession or use of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited on all departures. While certain substances may be woven into local traditions in some regions, they are not permitted within our groups. Furthermore, any form of exploitation, including the solicitation of sex workers, directly contradicts our values. To protect the integrity of the experience and the well-being of the group, our National Geographic Expedition Leader retains the right to remove any traveller who violates these standards.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Comprehensive travel insurance is a mandatory prerequisite for participation in all our departures. To safeguard your well-being, your National Geographic Expedition Leader will kindly request to verify your physical policy details before you may officially join your fellow travellers.

When choosing your coverage, please ensure your policy includes full medical protection, featuring a strict minimum requirement of \$200,000 USD for emergency rescue and medical repatriation. For complete peace of mind while exploring, we also strongly advise securing comprehensive coverage for personal liability, trip cancellation or curtailment, and the loss of luggage and personal belongings. If you intend to rely on insurance provided through your credit card, you must supply formal proof of purchase—such as a credit card statement or receipt in your name—along with explicit confirmation from your banking institution regarding the participating insurer, exact policy limits, and their dedicated 24-hour emergency contact number.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Upon your return, we invite you to share your insights with us. Your valued feedback shapes the future of our itineraries and ensures we continue to deliver meaningful experiences. As a token of our appreciation for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% savings (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) toward your next expedition with us. Simply submit your evaluation within four weeks of completing your travels to unlock this benefit and join our global community of returning travellers.

\*This offer is valid for new bookings only, limited to one per person, and cannot be combined with other promotions or applied to independent itineraries. Maximum value of \$100 USD (or local currency equivalent). This program may be amended or withdrawn at any time.

## How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

## Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

# Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.