



Great Country Houses & Gardens of Northern Ireland

October 15-22, 2022 - Itinerary

Tour arrangements by Classical Excursions and Mark Donnelly

SATURDAY - October 15

Overnight at the Fitzwilliam Hotel in Belfast.

Welcome dinner in Belfast.

SUNDAY - October 16

Breakfast at the Fitzwilliam. After breakfast, check out of hotel and depart for the day.

We start with a scenic tour around the town of Belfast, the historic capital of Northern Ireland.

A private tour and lunch at **Ballyscullion Park**, hosted by the owners Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mulholland. The house was designed by Charles Lanyon.

A private tour of **Barons Court house & gardens hosted by The Duke of Abercorn**. The original house was designed in 1742 with later alterations in the 1780s and 1790s. The current interiors are by David Hicks.

Arrive and get checked into **Belle Isle Castle**. Here we will have exclusive use of for the next three nights. Belle Isle was purchased by the Duke of Abercorn as his son, Lord Nicholas Hamilton, has his Northern Irish home.

Dinner at Belle Isle Castle.

Accommodations: Belle Isle Castle – 3 nights.

MONDAY - October 17

Breakfast at Belle Isle.

A morning tour of **Florence Court**, a property of the National Trust.

A tour and luncheon at the privately owned **Crom Castle, hosted by the The Earl of Erne**.

An afternoon boat ride on the loch.

Dinner at Belle Isle Castle.

Accommodations: Belle Isle Castle.

TUESDAY - October 18

Breakfast at Belle Isle.

A morning visit to **Castle Coole**, which is maintained by the National Trust. Lord Belmore who still resides on the property will greet us and show us his personal collection of the Wyatt drawings of Castle Coole.

A tour of **Killyreagh House and Garden** with our hosts Lord and Lady Anthony Hamilton followed by lunch with the owners. Lord Anthony is the brother of the Duke of Abercorn.

An Afternoon tour of **Tempo Manor**.

Dinner at Belle Isle Castle.

Accommodations: Belle Isle Castle.

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WEDNESDAY - October 19, 2022

Breakfast at Belle Isle. Check out of Belle Isle and depart for the day.

We begin with lunch at **Mount Stewart House and Gardens**, which is owned by the National Trust. Lady Rose Lauritzen and her husband Peter, who still maintain a private residence at Mount Stewart, will show us their private wing and their private garden. A tour of the **Temple of the Winds** will also be included with Peter Lauritzen.

We then drive to **Ballywalter Park** and get settled in for a two-night stay with the owner's, Lord and Lady Dunleath, in their private home.

Drinks in the library at Ballywalter Park followed by dinner hosted by Lord and Lady Dunleath.

Accommodations: Ballywalter Park – 2 nights.

THURSDAY - October 20

Breakfast at Ballywalter Park.

A morning visit to the National Trust's **Castle Ward**.

Our afternoon is spent at **Grey Abbey House, Gardens & ruined medieval Cistercian Abbey**. The house is privately owned by **Mr. William and the Hon. Mrs. Montgomery**. It has been their family home for 300 years. The owners will host us for lunch following the tour.

We return to **Ballywalter Park** where Lord and Lady Dunleath will greet us for drinks, followed by dinner.

Accommodations: Ballywalter Park.

FRIDAY - October 21

Breakfast at Ballywalter Park. **Check out and depart for the day, ultimately heading to Dublin.**

A morning visit to **Killyleagh Castle**.

A private tour and lunch at **Finnebrogue House, hosted by the owner Noel Lamb**.

This afternoon we drive south into the Republic of Ireland, arriving in Dublin for a late afternoon check-in at **The Merrion Hotel**.

Farewell dinner in Dublin.

Accommodations: The Merrion Hotel, Dublin – 1 night.

SATURDAY - October 22

Breakfast at The Merrion. Independent departures.

or

Continue with the Republic of Ireland seven-night tour – “Great Houses of Ireland: Ballyfin & Waterford County” Saturday October 22 to 29. See separate tour itinerary for more details!

The tour is limited to a small number of participants. Early registration is therefore suggested.

Inquiries and Reservations: Office@ClassicalExcursions.com

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Updated as of 15 April 2022 | Itinerary subject to change without notice.