Belturbet –
The Castle/Golf Cruise

A suggested 7 day itinerary for a return to base cruise from Belturbet

Take centuries-old monastic settlements and places of historical significance add in lush landscapes and dramatic scenery, mix with delightful small villages and harbours, and you have just some of the ingredients that have made cruising the River Shannon such a popular holiday option in Ireland.

Belturbet is a busy town attracting anglers and boating enthusiasts as well as being a focal point in the Emerald Star network. The Shannon-Erne Waterway provides access to the Shannon itself while the town is the gateway to Lough Erne and everything that this spectacular labyrinth of waters has to offer. Belturbet is also well served by bars and restaurants, while golf, walking tours and fishing are other attractions.

Belturbet – Belleek– Belturbet

168km / 0 locks / 18 hours

Day 1

Arrive at our base at **Belturbet** early afternoon and spend some time getting to know your boat, how to handle it and basic navigation techniques. Cruise to **Crom Castle**, set in rolling parkland amidst wooded islands and a tranquil peninsula in Upper Lough Erne. The Crom Estate in County Fermanagh has been the historic seat of the Earls of Erne for over 350 years and enjoys an unrivalled location in the heart of Ireland's Lake District. Moor and have dinner in **Carrybridge**.
8km / 1 hours cruising

Day 2

Depart early morning and cruise to the Share Holiday Centre where a coffee shop and snack bar is available. Head north towards **Bellanaleck** and stop off and visit the award winning Sheelin Antique Lace Museum which is situated in the village centre. The Museum houses approximately 700 exhibits, illustrating types of lace made in Ireland. Stay overnight in **Enniskillen** which is a very lively town with lots of bars and many famous restaurants in the east of the town. Franco's restaurant is a contemporary eating place offering excellent seafood, pizza's and fresh pasta. Why not try a round of golf at Enniskillen Golf Club, just a few miles from the town centre. It is a parkland course which hosts outstanding views over the town and surrounding countryside.
30km / 3 hours cruising

Day 3

Cruise from **Enniskillen** to **Devenish Island** - this site contains the substantial remains of Lough Erne's most important island monastery. You can climb the islands most striking feature, the perfect round tower, which stands at 30 metres tall. There is much to be admired in the architecture of the churches with their beautifully carved intricate details. There is also a museum which contains sculpture from the churches also well worth a visit. Moor overnight at Manor House Marine and enjoy dinner at the Inishclare bistro bar and restaurant boasting stunning views of the lakes. Manor House also has a fantastic golf course, why not call in and arrange a round.
15km / 3 hours cruising / 1 lock (Portora Lock) not operational so navigate with care

Day 4

Early morning enjoy a stroll around the miles of woods at Castle Archdale. The relatively unspoilt woodland on these islands is a mixture of many species including oak, yew and ash. This marina has on shore facilities that include a shop, restaurant, pub, pony trekking and horse riding. Set off northwards towards **Belleek** passing by White Island - the ruins of an ancient church can be found near the shore, built on the site of an earlier monastic settlement. It still has an intact arched Romanesque doorway. Moor up in **Lusty Beg Island**, this is the closest jetty to **Boa Island** where you can visit the Cladragh Burial grounds. Why not enjoy a spot of fishing around the Lusty Islands.
20km / 1 hour cruising

Day 5

Depart for **Belleek**, which is famous for the making of Belleek pottery, established in 1857. Situated in the picturesque village on the banks of the River Erne, this imposing building is home to the world famous Belleek Fine Parian China and Belleek Visitor Centre, where facilities include guided tours, a museum, an audio visual theatre, a showroom and a restaurant. Visit the Thatch coffee shop set in a traditional old style eating house, or try out The Jolly Farmer in the evening situated across the bridge in **Belleek**, offering good wholesome food in a modern surrounding.
20km / 2 hours cruising

Day 6

Set in the heart of the **Fermanagh Lakeland**, **Lusty Beg** offers the most up-to-date facilities, coupled with the breathtaking scenery of the Fermanagh lakes. The services and facilities are designed to ensure that your time spent on **Lusty Beg Island** is an enjoyable one, so whether you wish to relax in the bar and restaurant, indulge in the extensive leisure facilities or embrace the magnificent outdoors on the nature trail, **Lusty Beg** offers you a warm welcome.
35km / 3.5 hours cruising

Day 7

Moving towards towards **Enniskillen**, stop off at Roissigh jetty where you will find a waterfront restaurant. The restaurant is open from Wednesdays through to Sundays. It is a fantastic setting right beside the mooring offering great food. Closer to **Enniskillen** is the Inisclare Restaurant with its own marina. Arrive in **Belturbet** late evening where you will spend your last evening on board before returning your boat the following morning. The Captain's Table is one of the nicest restaurants in the town.
40km / 4 hrs cruising

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