

Europe, July to September 2026

August 31 to September 3, 2026

This post covers the last four days of the cruise. Not because I got tired of writing every day (well, not entirely for that reason), but more so because two of those days were duds and the other two did not really have a lot of content.

August 31, Dublin



Having been here already, we decided not to book a tour and just go into town. Turns out that required a 45-minute tender ride from the ship and a 25-minute train ride into Dublin. Once we added walking and waiting times, we spent 2½ to 3 hours of travel back and forth. But we did get there. We walked around for an hour and went home. I guess I at least owe a picture.

Here is one of a church.

September 1, Holyhead



This stop was somewhat interesting, going to Caernarfon, the largest castle in Wales. This is a view from the inside courtyard. The guide had a lot of information about the history of the castle and how it helped shape Welsh history. My only memory is that it was the site of the investiture of prince Charles as prince of Wales. When the guide was explaining this, he said that only about 25% of the official princes of Wales actually had ever visited Wales.

A royal is given this title because it includes rights to some businesses and properties in the UK that generate a lot of income per year. I believe the number he gave was around \$20 million pounds a year. Not bad for getting hit on the shoulder with a sword by your mother. On the other hand, this is really a minimum requirement because the prince

of Wales does not get any other income from the UK or England. How sad.

Caernarfon castle is in a town called Gwynedd, pronounced just as it looks. Gwynedd is in the Welsh-speaking area. I did not really know there was still an active Welsh-speaking area. He said 80% of the people here speak Welsh as their preferential language.

Everyone we saw also spoke English, but there were a lot of Welsh signs.

Gobeithio y cewch ymweliad
bythgofiadwy yn nhre'r Cofis. Cewch
fwynhau'r croeso ym mha iaith bynnaf
– iaith lenyddol ein beirdd, iaith stryd
ein llafnau ifanc, iaith y Cofi neu iaith
swyddogol y Cyngor.

Rydym ni'r Cofis wedi bod yn prynu,
gwerthu a sgwrsio yng nghysgod y
castell ers cyn cof. Cofiwch chi, tref
Saeson a Normaniaid oedd hon pan
orffenwyd adeiladu ei muriau ym
1290. Cyn yr holl adeiladu, Celtiaid fu
crafu byw yma yng nghyffiniau Twiti
a cafodd y Rhufeiniaid fwy o hwyl ar
yn eu caerâu yn Segontium, dan dref
mynyddoedd mawreddog Eryri ac yr
Hen Walia ar lan yr Afon Seiont.

I like the lack of vowels in many Welsh words. They must have letters they use as vowels, or perhaps they take after written-Hebrew that often leaves off vowels.

Wales is a very civilized place, as proven by their attitudes.



And it has a delicious local cuisine seen nowhere else in the world.



September 2, Cork

There were a lot of tours we could have signed up for in Cork. We selected one to a town called Kinsale. I had heard a lot of this town, and I think Jon and family were there recently, giving it high marks. Maybe OK for a real visit, but not for a bus tour. They dropped us here for 90 minutes to eat and shop. No instruction on what to see.

We did manage to bump into a couple from the Czech Republic on our way into a church. It was the oldest continually operating church in Wales. It's amazing how many places have the oldest of something-or-other.

The only other place of possible significance is one that looks one where Juliette could have stopped recently for a drink.



September 3, Falmouth

Today is our last stop and we spent it on a tour of ancient Celtic sights. The Celts settled many areas around this part of the world including Ireland, Wales, Brittany, and Cornwall. Falmouth is in south-central Cornwall, and we had a long drive to the West to see two sights. One was a 2000-year-old Celtic settlement called Chysauster. It's a town of about 10 houses representing a settlement that held (estimated) 70 to 80 people. Each house had a kitchen, a fireplace, a living area for people, and a living area for animals. I guess that was common 2000 years ago.



Here is our first sight upon entering the historic area. We were told some of these weeds are descendants of weeds from a long time ago.

Really, this was the site and contained trampled down paths though the growth. Those led us to the buildings of interest, or what remains of them.



Here is a house. The pictures do not do justice to what it felt like walking through them. It was one of those you-got-to-be-there moments.

There was also a fogou there, but entry to it was blocked. Darn!

If you want to see some better pictures and learn what a fogou is, here is the [link](#).

After Chysauster, we made a quick stop to see the ancient Celtic Lanyon Quoit. There are quite a few quoits in the area, and we saw one of the most visited one. It's the most visited, not because it's the best example, but because it's near the road and the easiest for people to visit, especially people of the cruise-ship persuasion, many of whom are mobility challenged. Getting our group to walk a mile to another quoit would not be practical.

OK, I admit I never knew what a quoit was before now. I am even a bit surprised it passed the spelling checker. A quoit (at least the one we saw) is a stone structure that was originally inside a large burial chamber. This quoit was originally about 5,000 years old. I say "originally" because it collapsed in a storm in 1815 and was rebuilt. So, this version represents something that was first erected about 3,500 BCE.

The enclosing burial chamber itself, a large dirt mound, disappeared through the help of nature over the years. Rain, wind, and a lot of whatever. Now only the stone remains, here and in other quoit sites in the area. We were told there were about a dozen.

Our picture:



And the [website](#).