

THE _____
IRISH TOURISM
_____ GROUP

TOUR OF IRELAND



8th – 17th June 2022

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Ireland has its own special magic, so charming and now you can experience the enchantment for yourself!



Join us on a **9 Night** tour of the **South/West of Ireland and Dublin**. Beginning in Shannon, meander through the beauty and tranquility of some of Ireland's finest destinations, finishing with a stay in our spirited, exciting capital city!

Explore 15th century **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park** before a delightful afternoon to yourself in the characterful winding streets and history of the market town of **Ennis**, home to you for the next 2 nights. Return to **Bunratty Castle** for a fun filled **Medieval Banquet** and take in the rugged charm of The Burren, the majesty of the **Cliffs of Moher** and a free afternoon to relish in the history, culture and vibrancy in the City of Tribes, **Galway**.

Continue to Ireland's largest county of Cork, via Ireland's prettiest village of **Adare** with thatched cottages and ancient abbeys and castle. Stop off at **Blarney Castle and Gardens** and immerse yourself in the greenery and multi-coloured splendour of its rustic beauty and heritage. Arrive in your home for the next two nights, the fishing village and food capital **Kinsale**, with spectacular views out over the Harbour. Visit the port town of Cobh, where the last people boarded Titanic and sample a wee dram of fine Irish whiskey at the **Jameson Distillery, Midleton**. Marvel at the rare specimens of **Garnish Island** and see the views from the Martello Tower. Step back in time at **Molly Gallivan's Cottage and Traditional Farm**.

In County Kerry, enjoy the tranquility of the Lakes in **Killarney** National park and enjoy a traditional jaunting car ride and lake cruise. Explore the scenic beauty of the **Ring of Kerry** and learn of the ancient history of Skellig Michael at the **Skellig Experience**. Take to the more rustic roads and landscape of the rugged **Dingle Peninsula** and discover the tough life of the Blasket Islanders at **The Blasket Centre**.

Make your way to Dublin via the **National Stud and Japanese Gardens** in Kildare, before a free afternoon of shopping and experiencing the very best Dublin has to offer at your leisure. Visit **Trinity College Library**, home to the esteemed **Book of Kells**, before exploring the process of the making of Ireland's most well-known export and enjoying a refreshing pint with breathtaking 360 degree views of Dublin city, at the **Guinness Storehouse**. Depart from Dublin Airport.

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Day 1: Wednesday 8th June 2022

Arrive at Shannon Airport and meet with your experienced Irish driver/guide. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to one of Ireland's most popular attractions, **Bunratty Castle and Folkpark**. Within the grounds of the castle is a re-created 19th century village which includes a school, shops, doctors and of course – the Pub. Across the road from the castle you will find Blarney Woollen Mills which sells many fine Irish made goods. Enjoy some free time exploring the bustling and historic market town of Ennis, on the River Fergus.

Overnight: Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis, County Clare, Bed and Breakfast Basis

Day 2: Thursday 9th June 2022



Continue your exploration of the west of Ireland as you journey to one of Ireland's natural wonders, the **Cliffs of Moher**. Rising to over 700 feet, the cliffs give magnificent 360 degree views from the visitor center. Continue through the lime stone landscape of **The Burren** and see such sights as the Poulnabrone Dolmen, a portal tomb dating back to the Neolithic period, amongst others as you travel to the vibrant city of **Galway** and free time to explore the many pubs, restaurants, shops and places of interest on the edge of Galway Bay.

Overnight: Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis, County Clare, Bed and Breakfast Basis

Day 3: Friday 10th June 2022

Travel to Ireland's prettiest village of **Adare**, founded in the 13th century, abounds with a rich history and a strong heritage, which remain ever present in its monuments, its thatched cottages, its streets and its people.

Continue into the Rebel County of Cork to visit **Blarney Castle and Gardens**. Cormac MacCarthy, a great Irish chieftain constructed Blarney Castle nearly 600 years ago and since then this remarkable fortress and its 'Stone of Eloquence' has been attracting thousands of curious visitors every year. Legend has it that if you kiss the Blarney Stone you will never be lost for words and have as the Irish say, 'the gift of the gab'. Built in 1823, Blarney Woollen Mills was originally known as Mahoney's Mills and provided valuable employment to the people of Blarney and nearby areas. Today Blarney Woollen Mills is Ireland's largest Irish Gift & Craft Store.

Overnight: Actons Hotel, Kinsale, County Cork, Bed and Breakfast Basis

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Day 4: Saturday 11th June 2022



Start your day with a visit to the port town of **Cobh**, where between 1848 & 1950 over 6 million adults and children emigrated from Ireland, mainly to America. Cobh was also the final port of call for the ill-fated Titanic. Spend some free time exploring this coastal location with attractions that include Cobh Heritage Centre where new exhibitions include the Building of the Titanic and the White Star Line Collection, the Titanic Experience, St Colman's Cathedral and Spike Island.

Continue to the **Jameson Distillery Midleton**, where you will learn how this famous whiskey is distilled to this day, and of course sample a wee dram.

Overnight: Actons Hotel, Kinsale, County Cork, Bed and Breakfast Basis

Day 5: Sunday 12th June 2022



Take time out of the mainland with a ferry ride to **Garnish Island**, located in the sheltered harbour of **Glengarriff** in Bantry Bay, in Southwest Ireland. Garnish is world renowned for its gardens which are laid out in beautiful walks. For history buffs the Island also boasts a Martello tower on its southern shores which has been restored with an amazing view of the bay from the battlements of the tower.

At **Molly Gallivan's Cottage and Traditional Farm** will experience the simple country lifestyle in rural Ireland before the days of electricity and modern conveniences. Visit Molly's enchanting cottage which is over 200 years old and explore her traditional farm where you will witness in real life the farming methods and traditions of the not too distant past.

Continue onto the charming town of **Killarney** on the edge of Killarney National Park, where you will spend your next three nights.

Overnight: Killarney Avenue Hotel, Killarney, County Kerry, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast Basis

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Day 6: Monday 13th June 2022

This morning explore the **Dingle Peninsula** which stretches 30 miles into the Atlantic Ocean on the south-west coast on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way. Perhaps not as well-known as the Iveragh Peninsula where the Ring of Kerry is located, the Dingle Peninsula is less busy but every bit as beautiful and it is dominated by the range of mountains that form its spine, running from the Slieve Mish range to the Conor Pass and Mount Brandon, Ireland's second highest peak. Relax and savour the scenery, the flora and fauna.

The town of Dingle is a small fishing port where you will find plenty of pubs, cafes and restaurants to have lunch. Then to the west of the town the scenery is particularly rugged with views out to the formerly inhabited Blasket Islands. Visit the **Blasket Centre** which celebrates the story of the Blasket Islanders, the unique literary achievements of the island writers and their native language, culture and tradition. Sadly An Blascaod Mór was abandoned in 1953 as a result of the decline of its once vibrant population. Return to Killarney where the remainder of the day will be at leisure.

Overnight: Killarney Avenue Hotel, Killarney, County Kerry, Bed and Breakfast Basis

Day 7: Tuesday 14th June 2022



This morning after breakfast you will be collected by **Jaunting Car** (horse & carriage) and taken on a magical trip through Killarney National Park to Ross Castle and a lake cruise on Lough Erne.

Today you will discover the wonderful scenery as you drive around the famous **Ring of Kerry**. The road winds between the Macgillycuddy's Reeks, Ireland's highest mountains, and the varied Atlantic coast. You will be amazed at the breathtaking views and you will stop for photos at the most dramatic scenes and at the **Skellig Experience** that tells the story of the monks that lived on the Skellig Islands. Skellig Michael was recently used as a location in Star Wars. Continue through remote, colourful villages as you return to Killarney.

Overnight: Killarney Avenue Hotel, Killarney, County Kerry, Bed and Breakfast Basis

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Day 8: Wednesday 15th June 2022



Enjoy a morning at the **Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens** in County Kildare, which were laid out by Japanese master horticulturist Tassa Eida and his son Minoru. Representing the journey of life, the gardens are said to provide comfort to the soul.

Arrive into the Fair City of **Dublin** for an afternoon to explore the many attractions, pubs, restaurants, shops and parks at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel Riu Plaza The Gresham, Dublin Bed and Breakfast Basis

Day 9: Thursday 16th June 2022



Visit **Trinity College Library** which houses the famous **Book of Kells** transcribed by 9th century monks. Next explore the **Guinness Storehouse** which tells the 250 year story of one of Ireland's greatest exports. At the end of the tour, sample a pint of "The Blackstuff" whilst enjoying 360 degree panoramic views of the city from the Gravity Bar.

The remainder of the day is yours to explore and delight in Dublin's vibrant culture and nightlife as you wish!

Overnight: Hotel Riu Plaza The Gresham, Dublin Bed and Breakfast Basis

Day 10: Friday 17th June 2022

Transfer to Dublin Airport for your return flight.

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