

Explore Ireland - Max 29 guests 13 days/12 nights

Day 1, Monday - Depart USA on your overnight flight to Ireland.

Day 2, Tuesday - Arrive at Dublin Airport and make your way to Dublin City. You are free to explore the city at your leisure this afternoon. Your hotel will be within walking distance of the city centre. Overnight: Dublin (Dinner & bed & breakfast) **(D)**

Day 3, Wednesday - Today meet with your coach & English speaking driver/guide & depart Ireland's Capital traveling to County Kerry. En route stop in the town of Blarney to visit **Blarney Castle**. Here you will find the legendary Stone of Eloquence. Enjoy some time for shopping at **Blarney Woollen Mills**. It was bought in 1976 by a former worker has been transformed into what is perhaps the largest quality craft shop in Ireland.

Overnight: Kerry (bed & breakfast) **(B)**

Day 4, Thursday - Today you will tour the Iveragh Peninsula, which will give you the opportunity to discover the **Ring of Kerry**. Taking in spectacular scenery - mountains, peat bogs, lakes & magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean. Leaving Killarney pass through Killorglin, famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula & Dingle Bay. Next arrive in the sea town of Waterville. Continue to Sneem Village, famous for its brightly coloured houses. Along the ring of Kerry top at a local farm for a **sheepdog demonstration**. Your visit starts with an overview of the different breeds of sheep, followed by an introduction to the farmer's most important tools, his border collies. Next you will see a superb demonstration of sheep herding as the farmer with his dogs demonstrate how, by working together, he can take a flock of sheep from the mountain top to the sheep pen close to the farmyard.

OPTIONAL: Jaunting Car Ride in Killarney National Park – Supplement of \$16.00 p.p. Enjoy transportation of a different kind! A pony and trap (also known as a Jaunting Car) helps you discover areas of Killarney National Park that you might not otherwise visit. Relax aboard a jaunting car as your Jarvey [driver] takes you through the magnificent scenery of the National Park.

Overnight: Kerry (bed & breakfast) **(B)**

Day 5, Friday - Travel northwards to Tarbert & take a short boat ride across the mouth of the river Shannon to land on Clare's shore at Killimer. Travel along the coast to the **Cliffs of Moher**, the most majestic cliffs in Ireland which rise from the Atlantic Ocean. On a clear day, you can admire the Aran Islands & Connemara Mountains. Enjoy a tour of the **Burren Region**. The Burren is a high plateau of porous limestone situated in Northern Clare. The limestone is bare with no trees growing here or land covering the stone. But the Burren is not as deserted as we believe: the cracks allow different types of flowers to grow all year round. Dinner this evening is on your own or you may join the optional dinner/entertainment being offered below.

OPTIONAL: Medieval Banquet at Bunratty Castle or similar - Supplement of \$75.00 p.p.

Bunratty Castle, built in the 15th century by the Earl of Thomond, stands on the banks of the Raite River in County Clare. The Earl was known for his generosity and his lavish banquets. The entertainment today is provided by the Bunratty Singers & is a compliment to the lively mead reception, a four-course meal & of course good wine. Guests are invited to enjoy an unforgettable evening & take a true step back in time to Medieval Ireland. Overnight: Limerick (bed & breakfast) **(B)**

Day 6, Saturday - This morning travel to Galway City & get oriented with this beautiful place which attracts many musicians & artists. Visit **Galway Cathedral**, one of the largest & most impressive buildings in Galway built between 1958 & 1965. Next enjoy a **cruise along the Corrib River** to Lough Corrib including scones & an Irish coffee. This journey on the Corrib Princess takes passengers along the majestic River Corrib and onto the lake. Visitors will see unsurpassed views of the historic monuments & natural amenities that make this one of the most spectacular waterways in Ireland.

Overnight: Galway (Dinner, bed & breakfast) **(B, D)**

Day 7, Sunday - Today travel through the beautiful **Connemara** Region filled with lakes, rivers, bogs & mountains. Visit **Kylemore Abbey**, built in 1868 by Mitchell Henry, and see its most famous feature the miniature Cathedral. It has been home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns since 1920.

Next you will visit a **bodhrán maker** (traditional Irish drum). Roundstone Music and Crafts is located in a former Franciscan monastery in Roundstone, in the heart of Connemara. It is here that you will find the workshop of Malachy Kearns, better known as Malachy Bodhrán, who is famous for the manufacture of bodhráns, the oldest instruments that accompany traditional Irish music. Malachy makes bodhráns for the world famous Riverdance troupe and he is currently the only full-time bodhrán maker in Ireland. Return to Galway. Overnight: Galway (bed & breakfast) **(B)**

Day 8, Monday - Today travel to Donegal via **County Sligo**. See the beautiful scenery which was an inspiration for W.B. Yeats, who is buried at Drumcliffe Churchyard, under loaf-shaped Benbulbin Mountain. Visit the **Belleek Pottery Factory** & see first hand how this world renowned pottery is created. The factory tour allows visitors to see the pottery being removed from its moulds, being fired & decorated by the Belleek artists. Continue on to Derry City for a walking tour of the **Walled City of Derry**. Founded in the 6th century by St. Columba, Derry is the 2nd largest city & port of Northern Ireland. Dinner is included this evening. Overnight: Donegal (Dinner, bed & breakfast) **(B, D)**

Day 9, Tuesday- This morning depart Donegal and travel along the Antrim coast to Belfast, visiting the **Giants Causeway** en route. The Causeway was formed more than 60 million years ago when red-hot lava erupted onto the surface of the earth & was cooled by the sea to form the columns which make up the Giants Causeway. Legend tells a different story however that Finn Mac Cumhaill built the causeway over the sea to Scotland in order to fight his arch enemy, Fingal, who had started his own path. The two had never met before & when Finn heard the heavy footsteps of Fingal he turned back. Helped by his wife, Finn dressed up as a baby & when Fingal arrived & saw Finn, Fingal assumed the baby's father would be much bigger. This scared him & he went running home, destroying the causeway behind him. Next stop at the **Dark Hedges**. This beautiful avenue of beech trees was planted by the Stuart family in the eighteenth century. It was intended as a compelling landscape feature to impress visitors as they approached the entrance to their Georgian mansion, Gracehill House. Two centuries later, the trees remain a magnificent sight and have become one of the most photographed natural phenomena in Northern Ireland. In fact, the iconic trees have been used as a filming location in HBO's epic series Game of Thrones®, representing the Kingsroad. Continue to Belfast and check into your hotel.
Overnight: Belfast (bed & breakfast) **(B)**

Day 10, Wednesday- This morning enjoy a **guided tour of Belfast City**. This is an excellent way to discover Belfast City & will take in the leaning Albert Memorial Clock Tower (Ireland's answer to the leaning Tower of Pisa) & the Opera House, as well as passing City Hall, the Crown Bar (dating from 1885), Queens University & the Botanic Gardens. You will also visit the Harland & Wolfe Shipyard, where the Titanic was built & launched in 1912. A visit to the Shankill & Falls road will be of interest as it will give the visitor an indication of how life was in Belfast during the troubles.
Visit the **Titanic Experience Belfast**. Located in the heart of Belfast, the Titanic Belfast recreates the story of the world's most famous ship in a new iconic, six floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship's construction. Opened to coincide with the centenary, the self-guided tour begins upon entering the building's giant atrium where visitors are surrounded by the four "ship's hull" shaped wings which house the Titanic Experience. You will uncover the true story of the Titanic from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900's through her construction & launch, to her famous maiden voyage & subsequent place in history through nine large galleries full of interactive exhibitions. Highlights include views of the slipways where the Titanic was launched & the voyage to the bottom of the sea in the unique Ocean Exploration Centre. Enjoy the afternoon at your leisure in Belfast City.
Overnight: Belfast (bed & breakfast) **(B)**

Day 11, Thursday- This morning depart Belfast and travel to Dublin. En route visit **Slane Distillery**. There could be no finer setting in which to discover the nature of whiskey than Ireland's mythical Boyne Valley. Housed within the 250-year-old stables of the iconic Slane Castle Estate, the guided distillery tour uncovers a history like no other. The new state of the art working distillery pays homage to the resilient nature of Ireland's heritage and the surrounding lands. Take a trip back in time as storytellers guide visitors through the fabric of the Conyngham family tapestry, chapter by chapter and immerse guests into the wonderful world of whiskey. Discover the ancient art of Irish whiskey making. Explore the whiskey distillery where three different types of Irish whiskey are made: Malt, Grain and Pot Still. Learn about the process behind the triple casked blend, the craftsmanship that goes into each of the three casks and the flavours and aromas that each cask contributes to the whiskey's smooth yet full bodied character. Complete the interactive, immersive tour with a tutored whiskey tasting that allows one to assess this character for yourself by enjoying a sample of the signature triple casked blend, Slane Irish Whiskey. Continue on to Dublin. Dinner this evening is on your own or you may join the optional dinner/entertainment being offered below.

OPTIONAL: Evening Entertainment at Taylor's Three Rock or similar - Supplement of \$75.00 p.p.

Visit this lively pub in Rathfarnham for an excellent night of music and dance. A ballad group will regale visitors with ballads both happy and sad and will (after a few pints) have visitors singing along with them. The music is interrupted for a short while to enjoy the best of Irish Dancing guaranteed to get feet tapping. Visitors will later be sent into the night with fond memories of a memorable night in a Dublin Pub.

Overnight: Dublin (bed & breakfast) **(B)**

Day 12, Friday- After breakfast with your English speaking guide, enjoy an **orientation tour of the city**. The North side of the river offers striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city's main thoroughfare O'Connell Street or the Custom House along the quays, as well as Europe's largest public park, the Phoenix Park. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian Squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's House can still be found, its colourful doors along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. This part of the city is also home to the house of Bram Stoker, Trinity College & the Medieval District. Visit **EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum**. This is a state-of-the-art interactive experience located in the beautiful vaults of the 1820 Custom House Quarter building in Dublin's Docklands, the original departure point for so many of Ireland's emigrants. It will inspire and guide you on a journey to discover the stories of Irish emigration around the world, from early times to the modern day. Enjoy the rest of the **afternoon at your leisure**. We will be happy to make recommendations.

Overnight: Dublin (Bed & breakfast) **(B)**

Day 13, Saturday- Transfer to Dublin Airport for your departure flight home. Overnight: Dublin (Bed & breakfast) **(B)**

Price Includes:

11 nights accommodations in 3* & 4* hotels w/porterage
Full Irish breakfast at hotel each day and dinner day 2, 6, and 8

Visits and admissions to the following:

Blarney Castle	Blarney Woollen Mills	Ring of Kerry
Sheepdog Demonstration	Ferry across Shannon	Cliffs of Moher
Tour of Burren Region	Galway Cathedral	Cruise on Lough Corrib
Connemara National Park	Kylemore Abbey	Bodhrán Maker
Beleek Pottery	Walking Tour Derry Walls	Giants Causeway
Dark Hedges	Guided tour Belfast	Titanic Experience Belfat
Slane Distillery	Dublin Orientation Tour	Epic Irish Emigration Museum

Not included:

Optional Travel Insurance	Airfare	Lunch and Dinner as noted on itinerary
Transfer to/from airport/hotel	Personal Expenses	Gratuity for Driver/Guide & individual guides

May 10-22, 2021	\$2239	Jul 5-17, 2021	\$2239	Aug 9-21, 2021	\$2239
May 24-Jun 5, 2021	\$2239	Jul 19-31, 2021	\$2239	Aug 30-Sep 11, 2021	\$2239
				Sep 27 - Oct 9, 2021	\$2129

Dates & Rates per person for two people sharing:

Single Supplement - \$759

Please enquire about child rates

Accommodations: Subject to change and availability
 Dublin - RIU Gresham Hotel, Academy Plaza or similar
 Kerry - Dromhall Hotel, Randalls Court or similar
 Limerick - George Hotel , Treacys West Country or similar
 Galway - Clayton Hotel or similar
 Donegal - Clanree or similar
 Belfast - Clayton Hotel or similar

Extend your trip by adding a night or more at the beginning or end of the tour.

Contact Harrigan Holidays at 717-818-3024 or by email kathy@harriganholidays.com

Please note - itinerary is subject to change based on availability. Price based on current taxes and fees. Subject to change if there is a large fluctuation in currency, fuel surcharge or change in taxes and fees.

