

Explore Ireland 13 days/12 nights

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

Day 2, Tuesday - Arrive at Dublin Airport. 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. Next today 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. Today enjoy dinner on your own in one of the many restaurants or pubs in Killarney town. 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 Bunnratty Castle or similar -Supplement of \$79.00 p.p.

Bunnratty 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 Bunnratty 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. Enjoy some time at leisure in **Connemara National Park**. 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.

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 **Carrowmore Cemetery** which has over 60 stone circles & passage tombs, making it one of the largest Stone Age cemeteries in Europe & is the oldest megalithic cemetery in Ireland. Each tomb is numbered so as to facilitate visitors. The central tomb has been restored to enable visitors to explore the interior of a court tomb & see how it was when it was built over 5,000 years ago. It is a must see for those interested in Archaeology. Continue towards Sligo via Belleek. Here you will 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. Overnight: Donegal/Letterkenny (Dinner, bed & breakfast) **(B, D)**

Day 9, Tuesday - This morning depart Donegal for Derry. Upon arrival meet with your English speaking guide & enjoy 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. In 1613 the city was selected as a major plantation project, organised by the London livery companies. It was in this year that the walls of Derry were built to protect the town from the Gaelic chieftains in Donegal. This afternoon 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. Continue to Belfast.
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. 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 buildings 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 enjoy a tour of the **Ards Peninsula**. Located in County Down, it separates Strangford Lough from the North Channel on Ireland's northeast coast. Take the **ferry from Portaferry to Strangford** on your way to **Castletown House**, Ireland's largest and earliest Palladian style house, and was built between 1722 and 1729 for William Conolly, speaker of the Irish House of Commons and the wealthiest commoner in Ireland. The façade was almost certainly designed by the Italian architect, Alessandro Galilei, while the Irish architect Sir Edward Lovett Pearce added the wings. 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 \$73.00 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 **Trinity College**, Ireland's oldest University, founded in 1592 by Elisabeth 1st. Visit the ancient library, containing over 20,000 manuscripts & is home to the 9th century Book of Kells. Last stop today will be a visit to **Christchurch Cathedral**. King Sitric Silkenbeard, the 1st Christian Viking King of Dublin, built the city's first church on this site in 1038. The current building was built in 1172 by the Anglo-Norman Richard de Clare (Strongbow). Similar to St Patrick's Cathedral, it is adorned with funeral monuments, including the reputed tomb of Strongbow. Unlike St. Patrick's however, Christchurch possesses a crypt which stretches nearly its entire length & much of the Cathedral's memorabilia is displayed here. Attached to the Cathedral is Dublinia an excellent exhibition of medieval Dublin. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at your leisure. **OPTIONAL: Enjoy a session of Gaelic Games with Experience Gaelic Games – Supplement of \$65.00 p.p. (Min 10 pax)**

In Ireland, Gaelic Games, music, dance and our language lie at the heart of who we are and what it is to be Irish. Our games, music & dance are truly unique. They are exciting & engaging, & they will not simply interest visitors but will wow them. At Experience Gaelic Games visitors are offered the opportunity to engage with the truly fantastic side of Irish Culture & everyday life. The two main Gaelic games are Gaelic Football & Hurling and are both organised by the G.A.A (Gaelic Athletic Association). They are two of the most popular sports in Ireland today, with boys & girls across all age groups from Under 8 to 18, as well as men & women of all ages, enjoying & playing these games. At Experience Gaelic Games you have the chance to learn more about, & then play, the unique Irish games of Hurling, Gaelic Football & Handball.

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

Day 13, Saturday- Transfer to Dublin Airport for your departure flight home. **(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	Cliffs of Moher
Ring of Kerry	The Burren	Galway Cathedral
Connemara National Park	Kylemore Abbey	Trinity College
Jaunting Car Ride	Ferry across Shannon	Cruise on Lough Corrib
Tour of Dublin, Derry, Belfast	Carrowmore Cemetery	Belleek Pottery
Giant's Causeway	Titanic Experience	Castletown House
Christchurch Cathedral	Ferry Portaferry to Strangford Lough	
Transfer to/from airport/hotel		

Not included:

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

Dates & Rates per person for two people sharing:

May 14-27, 2018	\$2259	Jul 2-14, 2018	\$2259	Aug 6-18, 2018	\$2259
May 28-Jun 9, 2018	\$2259	Jul 16-28, 2018	\$2259	Aug 27-Sep 8, 2018	\$2259
				Oct 1-13, 2018	\$2079

Single Supplement - \$699

Please enquire about child rates

Accommodations: Subject to change and availability

Dublin - Grand Hotel Malahide, Gresham Hotel, Academy Plaza or similar

Kerry - Dromhall Hotel, Randalls Court or similar

Limerick - George Hotel or similar

Galway - Clayton Hotel or similar

Donegal - Jackson Hotel or similar

Belfast - Europa 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.

