



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

# Best of Ireland

## 11-Day, 9-Night Journey

*Belfast, Londonderry, Galway, Killarney, Dublin*

Explore the Emerald Isle on this most in-depth of Irish experience crossing two countries (Ireland and Northern Ireland of UK). Let your guide show you spectacular sights like the Cliffs of Moher and the Ring of Kerry; and tells ancient mythical tales at an epic stone tomb.

Taste well-known Irish cuisine including Irish Beef Stew, Soda Bread, shellfish, Guinness and Irish Cream. No wonder the Irish have been declared the happiest people in Europe. Perhaps you will bring home some of that happiness as well!

### ♦ Small Group Tour & Private Tour

#### Trip Overview (\*UNESCO World Heritage Sites)

- ▶ Belfast Orientation Tour
- ▶ Portrush City Tour
- ▶ Bushmills City Tour
- ▶ Dunluce Castle (Photo Op)
- ▶ **Giant's Causeway\* Visitor Centre**
- ▶ Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge
- ▶ Slieve League Cliff
- ▶ Cliffs of Moher
- ▶ Poulnabrone Dolmen
- ▶ Doolin City Tour
- ▶ Bunratty Castle & Folk Park
- ▶ Limerick City Tour
- ▶ King John's Castle (Photo Op)
- ▶ Adare Town
- ▶ Dingle Peninsula
- ▶ Sleah Head (View Basket Islands)
- ▶ Eco-Boat Tour  
(**Skellig Michael\*** & Skellig Beag)
- ▶ Ring of Kerry
- ▶ Blarney Stone
- ▶ **Rock of Cashel\***
- ▶ Hore Abbey
- ▶ Trinity College (Books of Kells)
- ▶ Saint Patrick's Cathedral
- ▶ Kilmainham Gaol
- ▶ National Museum of Ireland
- ▶ Guinness Storehouse

# Why You'll Love This Tour



## **STUNNING LANDSCAPES**

Stunning yet unspoiled scenic places are Ireland's main attractions. From the Ring of Kerry, the Cliffs of Moher, to the Giant's Causeway, each inspires its own unusual magical moment to the visitor.



## **ABUNDANT PREHISTORIC, MEDIEVAL SITES**

Humans have inhabited Ireland since 10,500 BC. There are many spectacular prehistoric sites to visit including the Rock of Cashel, Bunratty Castle, Blarney Castle and more...



## **MUSIC & FRIENDLY STORYTELLING CULTURE**

You will experience the Irish friendliness in many places. Enjoy a pint at one of the many pubs and you may be entertained by Irish folk music and local tales in Irish Gaelic. Oh, don't forget the renowned Guinness Storehouse.

## **Inclusions**

- ▶ Private Airport Transfers
- ▶ Hotel Accommodations
- ▶ Daily Breakfast  
(See tour plan for details)
- ▶ English-speaking Local Guide
- ▶ Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

## **Exclusions**

- ▶ Airfare
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fee
- ▶ Gratuity
- ▶ Personal Expenses

## Nearby Airport

Dublin - Dublin Airport (DUB)

# Itinerary

(B)-Breakfast, (L)-Lunch, (D)-Dinner

### DAY 1: USA/CAN AIRPORT - DUBLIN (DUB)

Depart from your USA or Canada airport to fly to **Dublin**, Ireland. Night on board the aircraft.

\*If your flight departs in the early morning hours, you must arrive at the airport the night before the departure day i.e. early Friday morning means Thursday night!



### DAY 2: ARRIVE DUBLIN | BELFAST

Welcome to Ireland. At **Dublin Airport** you'll be met and driven to **Belfast**. Check into your hotel (after 3 pm). This evening, start your vacation with a short orientation tour of Belfast. 1 night stay at Belfast.

### DAY 3: BELFAST - LONDONDERRY | N IRELAND COASTAL EXCURSION (B)

After breakfast, check-out and drive to Londonderry.

Enroute enjoy a half day tour of **Portrush** and **Bushmills** on the coast, including a photo op at the medieval **Dunluce Castle** and a visit to **Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre**. Giant's Causeway is an intriguing volcanic rock formation (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Followed by a visit to the heart stopping **Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge** in Ballintoy.

1 night stay at **Londonderry**.

### DAY 4: LONDONDERRY - GALWAY | SLIEVE LEAGUE CLIFF (B)

After breakfast, check out and drive to **Galway**. Enroute, experience the magic of Ireland's highest sea cliffs at **Slieve League** in Teelin.

2 nights stay at **Galway**.

### DAY 5: GALWAY | CLIFFS OF MOHER & POULNABRONE DOLMEN (B)

Proceed with an excursion to Liscannor to visit the towering **Cliffs of Moher** - Ireland's favorite visitor attraction that lies southwest of town. Walk the safe paved pathways and view the famous Cliffs on Europe's western frontier and enjoy the spectacular vistas of the Atlantic Ocean and the Aran

Islands. Their natural beauty has inspired artists, musicians, and poets for generations, as well as absorbing scientists and geologists, drawn by the unique landscape in which they sit. These most famous cliffs in Ireland will leave you awestruck, creating vivid memories that will stay forever.

Visit **Poulnabrone Dolmen** that is Ireland's oldest megalithic monument and an epic portal tomb made of massive stones.

#### **DAY 6: GALWAY - KILLARNEY | DOOLIN, BUNRATTY CASTLE, LIMERICK (B)**

Check-out and transfer to **Killarney**. Enroute we take a city tour of **Doolin**. Later we proceed to the 15<sup>th</sup>-century **Bunratty Castle** and **Folk Park** featuring a replica village in a rural setting. Continue to **Limerick** for a city tour including a view of **King John's Castle**. Later we stop at a heritage town, **Adare**, before arriving in Killarney.

3 nights stay at **Killarney**.

#### **DAY 7: KILLARNEY | DINGLE PENINSULA (B)**

Travel from Killarney along the **Dingle Peninsula** and listen to tales of the region's rich folklore and heritage. Visit **Slea Head** — widely considered to boast the Dingle Peninsula's finest views — and gaze out over the windswept cliffs to the **Blasket Islands** as the Atlantic waves roll in. Gain insight into the region's sandstone geology and early medieval history. Return to **Killarney** for the night.

#### **DAY 8: KILLARNEY | SKELLIG MICHAEL, RING OF KERRY (B)**

Today we explore the spectacular scenery of the real **Ring of Kerry** and unearth the true secrets of the wild Skellig Islands.

Arrive in **Portmagee**, which is the gateway to the Skellig Islands and take an **eco-boat tour** that circles both islands. Come right up close to **Skellig Michael** (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and **Skellig Beag** to experience their unique magical setting on the very edge of the World and their incredible wildlife. Learn about the Monks who lived on the largest of the Skellig Islands from the 6th-12th century and hear how some of Hollywood's biggest stars showed up in this tiny coastal setting. Proceed on the **Ring of Kerry** slowly making our way to Killarney, stopping at many spectacular vista points to learn about how each location has shaped their history and the opportunity to take that one picture that will ensure an everlasting memory of your Skellig experience. Return to Killarney for the night.

#### **DAY 9: KILLARNEY - DUBLIN | BLARNEY STONE & ROCK OF CASHEL (B)**

Check-out and drive to Dublin. Enroute visit the **Blarney Stone** in Cork. As the rumor goes, the Blarney Stone bestows the gift of the gab upon whoever kisses it. Further stop at **Kilkenney** - an awesome little town in Ireland. Explore the town and then head to the **Rock of Cashel** (a tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site) - a spectacular archaeological site with a collection of medieval ecclesiastical buildings set

on an outcrop of limestone. Walk downhill to **Hore Abbey**. Arrive at Dublin and check-into the hotel. This evening we head over to the Temple Bar area for dinner and drinks in the famous pubs.

### **DAY 10: DUBLIN | CITY TOUR (B)**

Today's city tour includes **Trinity College** to see the **Books of Kells** (an 8<sup>th</sup> century illuminated Latin Gospel), **Saint Patrick's Cathedral**, the **Kilmainham Gaol** and the **National Museum of Ireland**.

You may also like to visit the **Guinness Storehouse** and conclude with a pint of Guinness in the penthouse bar with a 360 degree view over Dublin. This evening feel free to enjoy live Irish music in the Irish pubs.

### **DAY 11: DEPART DUBLIN – ARRIVE IN N. AMERICA (B)**

After breakfast, transfer to **Dublin International Airport (DUB)** for your flight home. Most flights arrive back in North America on the same day.

\*Hotel check-out time is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested before your flight home.

## **Hotels**

We carefully handpick our hotels to ensure they provide you with the best comfort and experience. For Private Tours, you may request a specific hotel as one of the customizable options.

