

The Best of Ireland July 26 to August 10, 2024

Day 1 & 2 - Joining Day

This afternoon you will be picked up by limousine and whisked off to Pearson Airport for your overnight flight to Dublin, Ireland. Upon arrival, we will deplane, collect our baggage and transfer to our hotel. Today is leisurely as we all gather in our hotel in Malahide overlooking the Irish Sea in north County Dublin. Enjoy a pre-dinner drink and an introduction to your travelling companions before an early dinner. **Dinner/Overnight—Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co. Dublin**

Day 3 - St. Patrick's Country

Head north through the majestic Mountains of Mourne into Saint Patrick's Country, where we will be boarding a ferry for stunning views of the mountains. Afterwards, a visit to the grave of Ireland's Patron Saint and the Saint Patrick Centre which tells his story. Onwards to Belfast for a panoramic tour which will include the political wall murals located on the Protestant Shankill Road and the Catholic Falls Road—a unique cultural experience.

Dinner/Overnight—Europa Hotel, Belfast

Day 4 - Belfast & Titanic

A guided tour of Belfast City Hall is first on the agenda this morning. In the afternoon, visit the shipyard where the Titanic was built in 1909, followed by a tour at the Titanic Experience. The evening is free to explore the Northern capital on your own. **Overnight—Europa Hotel, Belfast**

Day 5 - Giant's Causeway & Derry

This morning, we drive north along the Antrim Coast and visit the Giant's Causeway. We then continue to Derry, where a local guide will tell the "Story of Derry" on a walking tour of this historic walled city. **Dinner/Overnight—Kee's Hotel, Co. Donegal**



Day 6 – Ben Bulbin & Clew Bay

This morning, we delve into the world of traditional Donegal tweed at Triona's Donegal. Following this enlightening experience, we venture onward to Belleek to explore its renowned porcelain factory. Afterwards, we enjoy some leisure time in the charming coastal town of Sligo before heading to Westport, where our hotel awaits us for the evening. **Dinner/Overnight—Westport Coast, Westport**

Day 7 – Connemara

Connemara remains one of the wildest and most romantic places in Ireland. Enjoy a visit to Kylemore Abbey. You will have some free time this afternoon to discover the charm of Westport. **Overnight—Westport Coast, Westport**

Day 8 – Galway & Cliffs of Moher

We will make our way to Galway City for some free time, before driving along the southern shores of Galway Bay, traversing the Burren region, and viewing the mighty Cliffs of Moher. An optional medieval banquet at Knappogue Castle is on offer tonight. **Overnight—Radisson Blu, Limerick**

Day 9 – Limerick & Adare

After breakfast we head for the Kingdom of Kerry. A panoramic tour of Limerick City is undertaken before travelling to Adare, where thatched cottages line the broad main street. We continue via Rathkeale and Abbeyfeale and arrive in the beautiful town of Killarney. **Overnight—Dromhall Hotel**, Killarney**

Day 10 – Dingle Peninsula

This morning, we enjoy a jaunting car ride thru' Killarney National Park. We will visit the fishing port of Dingle, view a traditional working sheep farm, and view the Blasket Islands as we round Sleah Head. Enjoy views of the Lakes before returning to Killarney. **Dinner*/Overnight—Dromhall Hotel**, Killarney**

Day 11 – Ring of Kerry

A leisurely tour around the Iveragh Peninsula reputed to be one of the most scenic drives in Europe. Travel via Killorglin, Cahirciveen, Waterville on Ballinskelligs Bay and the quaint village of Sneem. Later this evening you are invited to Quill's Farmhouse for a traditional Irish dinner and entertainment. **Dinner/Entertainment/Overnight—Dromhall Hotel**, Killarney**

Day 12 – Blarney & Tipperary

Leaving Kerry, we travel east to Blarney Castle (optional). From Cork we head to Tipperary with its lush, green landscape. We visit Cahir for a tour of one of Ireland's best-preserved castles before arriving in medieval Kilkenny. **Dinner/Overnight—Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny**

Day 13 - Waterford & Kilkenny

Follow in the footsteps of a group of Famine emigrants as you board a replica of the sailing vessel Dunbrody at the quayside in New Ross. Next, onto Waterford for some free time to explore the Medieval town. You can visit the Viking Museums or the famous Crystal factory (both optional).

Dinner/Overnight—Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny

Day 14 - Curragh of Kildare

This morning we travel through the Curragh of Kildare for a guided tour of the Irish National Stud. You also visit the Horse Museum and the Japanese Gardens. A panoramic tour of Dublin is undertaken before arriving at your city hotel. This evening, a free night to explore the electric atmosphere in Dublin. **Overnight—Gresham Hotel, Dublin**

The full day is yours to explore Dublin's "Fair City." Check out the famous streets, squares, magnificent buildings, beautiful parks & great shopping. Tonight, you will enjoy a farewell dinner with some lively Irish entertainment. **Dinner/Overnight—Gresham Hotel, Dublin**

Day 16 - Tour Ends

After a final hearty Irish breakfast in your Dublin hotel, we transfer to the airport and travel back to Toronto. Welcome home!