



A Week in Ireland

7 days

Tour Description

Explore Ireland, where the green hills roll on as far as the eye can see until they plunge into the oceans that meet the stunning coastline. This week long Irish adventure will cover the highlights of the southern part of the Emerald Isle. Sample the Whiskeys that keep the world's bellies warm and experience the landscape that has inspired myths for centuries. This trip will show you why Ireland is considered a land of 'more the merrier', and 'your friend is my friend'.

Highlights

- ❖ Oldest licensed distillery in the world
- ❖ Cliffs of Moher
- ❖ Bunratty Castle and Folk Park
- ❖ Dingle Peninsula
- ❖ Guinness Brewery and Jameson Distillery

Sample Tour Itinerary

Limerick – 1 night

Day 1: Arrive Limerick

Arrive at Dublin Airport where you are met by your Irish driver/guide and escorted to your waiting luxury motorcoach which will transfer you to your hotel in Limerick City. You will stop along the way to visit the Kilbeggan Distillery Experience (formerly known as Locke's Whiskey Distillery), believed to be the oldest licensed distillery in the world. Enjoy a tour followed by a wee nip, before continuing on to Limerick.

Killarney – 2 nights

Day 2: Arrive Killarney

This morning after your included Irish breakfast you will depart Limerick and begin your journey to Killarney. Your route is via the mighty Cliffs of Moher. Rising to almost 700 feet above the ocean and stretching for 5 miles, the Cliffs offer sweeping views of the Atlantic, the Aran Islands, and Galway Bay.

You then stop to visit the 15th century Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. Explore the Castles chambers, climb the spiral stairs to the Castle battlements & imagine yourself in medieval Ireland. The Castle itself, built in 1425, is a very fine restoration, with plenty of tapestries and beautiful furniture, some dating as far back as the building. The Folk Park reconstructs early 19th century village life with costumed guides and demonstrations of traditional skills.

You board your coach again and travel south through the charming and Old World village of Adare, with its thatched cottages and gentle ruins; the market towns of Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale and Castleisland, arriving in Killarney in the late afternoon. This evening enjoy dinner in a local pub with entertainment.



Day 3:

This morning, after breakfast, depart on a tour of the rugged Dingle Peninsula. A land of blue gold hills and sandy beaches, of glorious waterfalls, hidden bays, wondrous rock formations, caves and arches, busy harbors and wayside pubs. A land dappled with heather, primroses, bluebells, foxgloves and smiling faces to welcome you.

Dublin – 3 nights

Day 4: Arrive Dublin

Today, after breakfast you depart for Dublin, Ireland's Capital City. Your first stop is nearby Blarney village where the famous Castle is located. Here you can opt to visit the castle and kiss the Blarney Stone, said to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who participate in this ancient custom. Enjoy time for shopping at the Blarney Woolen Mills, where a wide selection of Irish handmade goods awaits you.

Then continue on to the town of Cashel where you will stop to visit the mighty Rock which dominates the countryside for miles. This was the ancient seat of the High Kings of Munster and you shall stop here to see and walk upon the old and hallowed ground. Continue on through the County of Laois and over the plains of Kildare, arriving in Dublin in the late afternoon and enjoy some time on your own to discover this charming city.

Day 5:

This morning after breakfast you will first enjoy a sightseeing tour of Dublin's fair city, which though modern and cosmopolitan, still retains the grace and atmosphere of the eighteenth century through its Georgian squares and terraces. On your tour you will visit Trinity College and its library, home to the Book of Kells, the Book of Durrow and one of the finest collections of manuscripts and early printed books in Ireland. You will also visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, founded in 1190, with its memories of Jonathon Swift, Handel, King William and many more; Christchurch Cathedral and O'Connell Street, reputed to be one of the widest main streets in Europe and the Bank of Ireland, formerly the Irish House of Parliament. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

Day 6:

This afternoon you will visit Guinness Brewery and Jameson Distillery. Our first stop will be in St James' Gate at the Guinness Brewery. This award winning museum is fascinating, tracing the Guinness history from beginning to present state. Wander through this interactive wonderland, the museum is actually designed to give you the impression of walking up an enormous Guinness glass. The climax is when you reach the top where the Guinness Roof Top Bar is situated. The bar is completely constructed from glass giving you a spectacular unparalleled view of the city where you can savor your complimentary Guinness Pint.

Continue on to Smithfield Village in the heart of Old Dublin and a visit to the Old Jameson Distillery. Irish whiskey can trace its history back to the 6th century. You can follow the fascinating craft of whiskey making through the different stages from grain intake to malting, mashing, fermentation, distillation, maturation and bottling. At the conclusion of your tour you can sample a wee dram in the Jameson Discovery Bar. Tonight you travel to the Abbey Tavern in the small fishing village of Howth, located just north of the city on Dublin Bay. It has an old-world décor of warming turf fires, stone walls, flagstone floors and gaslights. After a delectable dinner of locally caught seafood or traditional Irish fare, enjoy a rollicking evening of Irish ballads presented by the famed Abbey Tavern Singers.



Day 7:

After breakfast, you bid farewell to Dublin as you board your coach for transfer to Dublin Airport and your flight home.

INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations: Limerick 1 night, Killarney 2 nights, Dublin 3 nights
- Meals: Continental breakfast daily, lunch and dinner as noted in itinerary
- Ground transportation via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistants and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in the itinerary