



Ireland: Pubs, Legends & Castles

7 days/6 nights

Dublin At Leisure Pre-Nights available!

Why You'll ♥ This Adventure:

- ♥ Focus on **Irish music and folklore** – Pub Crawls, traditional Irish music, hang out with the locals, live the history.
- ♥ Upgraded **UNIQUE Accommodations: Castles & Historic Hotels!**
- ♥ Short drive times each day – everything is close by!
- ♥ As **active** as you want it to be. From mild to wild – your choice every day.
- ♥ Features a full itinerary, **yet you'll have time for yourself** everyday.
- ♥ **VERY scenic.** Lots of photo ops! Bring a big memory card.

Itinerary

OPTIONAL PRE-days - DUBLIN AT LEISURE

Pre-Day 1

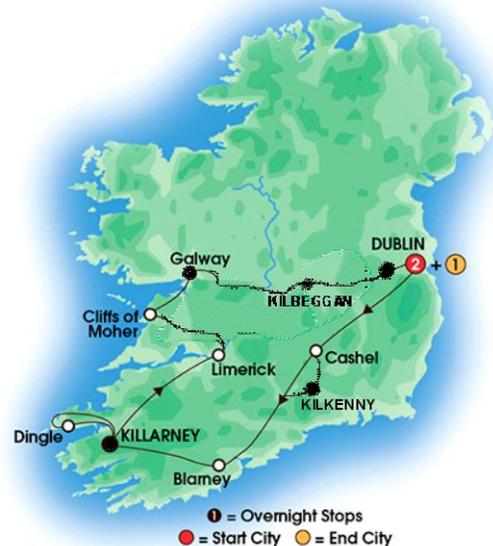
Arrive, rest and get a delicious Irish meal (oh, and maybe pull a Pint or two...) and a good nights sleep, and the next day explore Dublin at leisure!!



Pre-Day 2

Dublin Day at Leisure - You might consider:

Temple Bar area, National Leprechaun Museum, St. Stephen's Green, Brazen Head Pub (oldest in Ireland), Hop-On / Hop-Off Bus, National Museum, Old Jameson Distillery, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ryan's Victorian Bar, Abbey Street, Kilmainham Gaol, Nassau Street, Irish Writers Museum and more...



In the evening join your fellow early-birds for a Musical Pub Crawl in Dublin. Visit famous pubs and bars in the Temple Bar area with professional musicians who perform tunes and songs in the many pubs you will visit. Pull a pint, and sing along!! Experience the long lived history and stories of Irish Music and its influences on contemporary world music. Evening, get ready for a unique Dublin PUB CRAWL, lead by local Musicians.

OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN



UNITED STATES TO DUBLIN

Depart your hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you travel to start your vacation.



Day 1 DUBLIN ARRIVAL & HIGHLIGHTS

After landing at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities.

Then your Tours driver/guide will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach.

Upon arrival in central Dublin set off with a local guide who will show you around the prominent historic buildings and monuments of Dublin. Dublin is an ancient settlement, founded by the Vikings in the 9th century. The city has been molded through the centuries with many architectural styles, reflecting the economic, political and artistic influences.

Stop at Trinity College to see the Book of Kells, an 8th century illuminated

manuscript of the gospels and see the Old Library.

Stop to visit the Guinness Storehouse to see exhibits on how this world famous stout was first created and why it is so popular today.

Finish your visit in the roof-top bar, Gravity, overlooking the city center where you can sample a draft Guinness and enjoy the view of the city.

Then drive to your hotel and check in where you will have time to relax or freshen up.

OVERNIGHT: DUBLIN



Day 2

NATIONAL STUD FARM - JAPANESE GARDENS, & KILKENNY

This morning depart Dublin and drive to Kildare which is in the heart of Ireland's horse country. A visit to the Irish National Stud will show you the history and current trends of horse-breeding in Ireland. See some of the magnificent horses and learn about horse-breeding.

Then take a walk around the Japanese Gardens which were established in 1908 and represent the "Life of Man" from cradle to grave in the traditional Japanese style of gardening. Also see the charming St. Fiachra's Garden with water features and beehive huts.

After your visit, drive on to Kilkenny and upon arrival embark on a guided walking tour through this medieval city. The humorous and informative guide will show you many of Kilkenny's historical sites, which help make stories about the past come to life.

After your tour check into your hotel on the river with full view of the Castle, where the balance of the evening is for individual pursuits.
OVERNIGHT: RIVER COURT HOTEL, KILKENNY



Day 3 BLARNEY, JAUNTING CARTS, & KILLARNEY

After breakfast, board your coach and depart Kilkenny this morning and travel north through County Cork. At Blarney, stop to climb to the battlements of Blarney Castle. Here, you can explore the 10th Century castle, grounds and magnificent gardens that hosted Kings and Queens, and you may kiss the famous "Stone of Eloquence."



After your visit, journey west through rugged countryside to the town of Killarney. Upon arrival an old-fashioned horse drawn jaunting car will bring you through the Killarney National Park, which is closed to motorized vehicles. Drive along the shores of Lough Leane to Muckross House, an elegant 19th century mansion set beside the tranquil Muckross Lake.

Photograph scenic Ross Castle, set on the shores of Lough Leane, Killarney's largest lake. Enjoy local stories by your jarvey (driver) and take in the great views of the mountains. Enjoy an evening in Killarney where you will check into your unique and historic lake-front hotel, where the evening is free for independent dining.

OVERNIGHT: THE LAKE HOTEL, KILLARNEY



Day 4 DINGLE PENINSULA TOUR & DINGLE BREWING COMPANY

Today discover the beauties of the Dingle Peninsula, made famous by David Lean's movie, "Ryan's Daughter." Drive along the south shore of the peninsula for plenty of vistas of heathery mountains, sandy stretches of beach and rocky headlands. There will be frequent stops at strategic locations to admire the views and take photos. At the base of Conor Pass, stop at the Dingle Brewing company. Learn about the brewery's rich and varied past before sampling a pint of this local lager.



Continue your drive on to the western tip of the peninsula. Here the scenery becomes wilder as the influence of the open Atlantic Ocean strengthens. You will pass early Christian monastic beehive huts and small fishing villages.

This evening enjoy your incredible hotel grounds and perhaps visit it's charming restaurant for a dinner on your own.

OVERNIGHT: THE LAKE HOTEL, KILLARNEY

Day 5

CLIFFS OF MOHER & GALWAY

Leaving Killarney, travel north, via Tralee and Listowel to Tarbert where you take the ferry across the wide mouth of the River Shannon.

Drive via Lahinch to view the Cliffs of Moher. The impressive wall of rock rises to a height of almost 700 feet about the churning Atlantic Ocean and stretches for five miles along the coast. The Cliffs of Moher Coastal Trail follows the cliffs edge and attract thousands of trekkers each Summer.



Continue north to Galway where you will take a panoramic tour to see the principal sights of the city. A drive around will take you to the large modern cathedral set on an island on the River Corrib. See the Spanish Arch in the Claddagh area, formerly a fishing village, the City Museum, National University of Galway and the Cathedral of Our Lady, which is built on the site of the former county jail.

Check into your hotel and enjoy some time to relax or freshen up before dining with your fellow travelers this evening, and embarking on your Galway Pub Crawl.

OVERNIGHT: GALWAY

Day 6

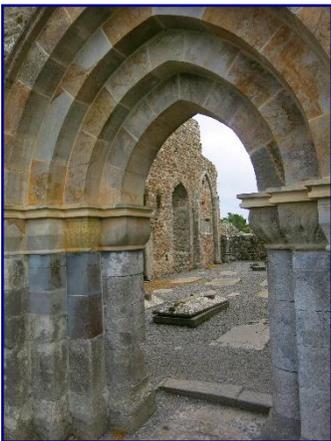
GALWAY – Day at Leisure to Explore!

The city's hub is 18th-century Eyre Square, a popular meeting spot surrounded by shops and traditional pubs that often offer live Irish folk music. Enjoy nearby stone-clad cafes, boutiques and art galleries that line the winding lanes of the Latin Quarter, which retains portions of the medieval city walls.

OVERNIGHT: GALWAY

Day 7

CLONMACNOISE & KILBEGGAN DISTILLERY



Today, travel from Galway to the center of Ireland to visit Clonmacnoise. This monastic settlement was founded in 545 AD by St. Ciaran and is delightfully set on the banks of the River Shannon. Learn about the history of the site through an audiovisual presentation and take a walk around to see the ancient monuments and the entire area.

Continue on and stop outside of Kilbeggan for a tour of the Kilbeggan Distillery. It was established in 1757 and today it is no longer used but preserved to show visitors how whiskey was distilled here.

Travel to Drogheda and check into your hotel. Enjoy some time to relax or freshen up before joining your group for dinner this evening. Tonight, enjoy the entertainment of a Seanachie, a

traditional Irish storyteller as you relax with a pint or Irish coffee in the historic hotel pub.

OVERNIGHT: DROGHEDA (outside Dublin proper)



Day 8

RETURN HOME

All too soon, your vacation in Ireland has come to the end. Transfer to Dublin Airport in plenty of time to check in for your flight, clear security and claim your VAT refund. You may do some last minute shopping at the duty free stores. Then clear U.S. Immigration before boarding your aircraft and fly west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States.

8-Day/7-Night TOUR INCLUDES:

- Exclusive transport by luxury motorcoach with a driver/guide (one man)
- DELUXE Hotel accommodation based on double/twin bedded rooms with private bath for 6 nights
- Full breakfasts (6)
- Meet and greet service with one group transfer upon arrival and departure at the airport
- Tour of Dublin with local guide
- National Stud Farm & Gardens
- Walking tour of Kilkenny
- Killarney Natl Park Horse-Drawn Jaunting Car Ride
- Passage on the Tarbert Ferry
- Galway Pub Crawl
- Traditional storytelling by a Seanachie on final night at hotel
- Visits and admission fees to:
 - Trinity College (Book of Kells),
 - Guinness Storehouse,
 - Irish National Stud Farm & Gardens,
 - Blarney Castle,
 - Dingle Brewing Company,
 - Cliffs of Moher,
 - Clonmacnoise,
 - Kilbeggan Distillery
- Hotel portorage, service charges and government taxes
- Flight bags, ticket wallets, baggage tags and identifying strap

Travel Insurance optional but recommended