



IRISH ODYSSEY

Sept 17-29, 2024



13DAY tour

PRICING

Includes all applicable taxes

Single Occupancy \$5,900

Double Occupancy \$4,800

Deposit required: \$500

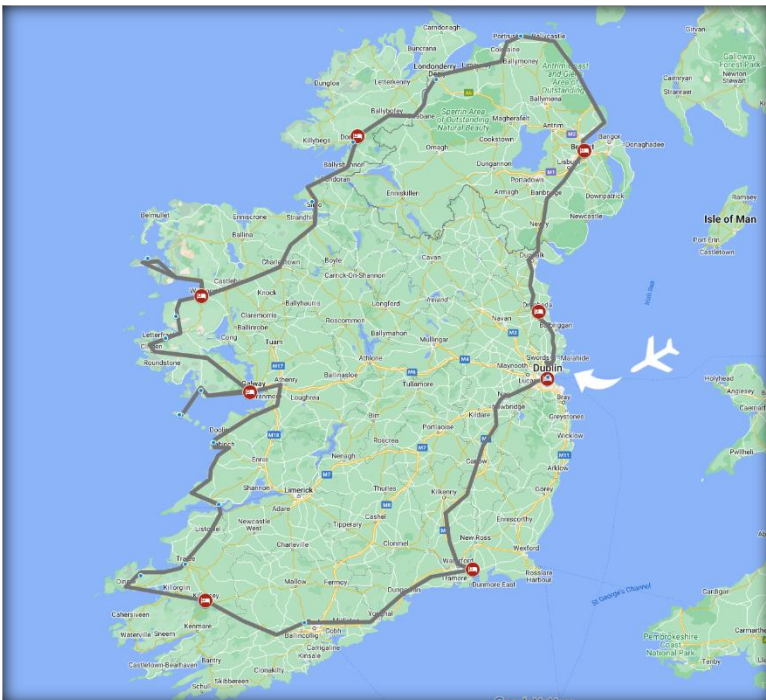
Non-refundable installment of 50% due July 2, 2024

Final payment due: August 2, 2024

Activity Level: **High**

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Night 1-2: Camden Court Hotel
- Night 3: Dooley's Hote
- Night 4-5: The Killarney Plaza Hotel
- Night 6-7: Salthill Hotel, Galway
- Night 8-9: The Clew Bay, Westport
- Night 10: Lough Eske Castle
- Night 11: Titanic Hotel
- Night 12: The D Hotel



Experience the enchanting beauty of Ireland on an unforgettable journey!

A local guide leads you through awe-inspiring landscapes from rugged Cliffs of Moher to serene rolling hills.

Explore vibrant cities where castles meet contemporary architecture. Delight in warm hospitality, savor Irish cuisine, and enjoy toe-tapping music in lively pubs.

Ireland's allure will captivate you and forge lasting memories.



Irish Odyssey

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Day 1 – Tues, Sept 17

Arrive in Dublin, Ireland – City Tour & Irish Immigration Museum

Meals Included: Welcome Dinner

Following arrival at Dublin Airport, you will be met by your driver/guide and escorted to your awaiting motor coach.

This morning, you will enjoy a tour of Dublin – **Ireland's capital city** on the banks of the River Liffey. You will see the **Georgian Squares** with their 18th Century houses, **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, **Trinity College**, **Phoenix Park** (the biggest town park in Europe), statue-filled O'Connell Street, and the fashionable Grafton Street. You will also visit **EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum** which tells the story of the many Irish who emigrated over the centuries and how they helped to change the world. This afternoon you will check into your hotel for a two-night stay. This evening you will regroup with your fellow travelers and enjoy a welcome dinner in your hotel.

Overnight: The Camden Court Hotel



Day 2 – Wed, Sept 18

Dublin – Book of Kells – St Patrick's Cathedral – Guinness Brewery

Meals Included: Breakfast

This morning you travel to **Trinity College** where you will visit the Long Room which houses 200,000 of Trinity College's oldest books and is

considered to be one of the world's most beautiful libraries. You will view a 9th-century Latin manuscript of the four Gospels written on vellum (prepared calfskin), known as the **Book of Kells**, one of Ireland's greatest cultural treasures and the world's most famous medieval manuscript. You will also visit **Saint Patrick's Cathedral**, an architectural and historical site that has been at the heart of Dublin's history for over 800 years. No visit to Dublin would be complete without a visit to the **Guinness Brewery** founded in 1759 by Arthur Guinness. Here you will enjoy a self-guided tour that concludes with a leisurely **pint of Guinness** in the **360-degree rooftop bar** while enjoying some spectacular views of Dublin City. The remainder of the day is free to soak up the atmosphere of this vibrant city, experience the history and appreciate the blend of past and present with modern-day shops housed in century-old buildings.

Overnight: The Camden Court Hotel

Day 3 – Thurs, Sept 19

Waterford – Powerscourt House and Gardens – Glendalough – Avoca

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

This morning you depart Dublin and travel south to County Wicklow known as The Garden of Ireland. Your first visit this morning will be to **Powerscourt House and Gardens**. This Palladian Mansion built in 1730 was badly damaged by fire in 1974. It was re-roofed in 1996 and opened to the public. The gardens at Powerscourt were first laid when the house was built in 1730 and a century later the 6th Viscount Powerscourt instructed his architect, **Daniel Robertson**, to draw up new schemes for the gardens. From here, you continue to **Glendalough** (Valley of Two Lakes) where you travel back in time while enjoying a guided tour of this early 7th-century monastic settlement. Your tour continues through the beautiful **Vale of Avoca** to **Waterford** for an overnight stay. This evening you will enjoy dinner in your hotel.

Overnight: Dooley's Hotel



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Day 4 – Fri, Sept 20

Waterford – House of Waterford Crystal – Blarney Castle

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

This morning you will visit the **House of Waterford Crystal** and see highly skilled local craftsmen demonstrate crystal blowing and cutting in a new state-of-the-art visitor center. Departing Waterford, you travel along the southern coastline to Blarney where you will visit **Blarney Castle and Gardens**. The castle was built in 1446 and today you will have an opportunity to climb the spiral stairs to the top of the castle and kiss the famous Blarney Stone said to bestow the gift of eloquence on those who dare. As you make your way through the castle grounds, you can also visit the **Castle Gardens** and **Rock Close**. From here you continue to Beauty's home Killarney for a two-night stay. This evening you will enjoy dinner in your hotel.

Overnight: The Killarney Plaza Hotel

Day 5 – Sat, Sept 21

Killarney – The Dingle Peninsula

Meals Included: Breakfast

Today you will enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the **Dingle Peninsula**, once cited as the most beautiful place on earth by National Geographic. You will stop at the **Brian de Staic studio** in Dingle which specializes in Celtic jewelry, handcrafted and engraved with ancient Celtic symbols and the letters of the Ogham alphabet, an ancient Irish form of writing. As you continue around **Slea Head**, you will get some breathtaking views of the Atlantic coastline and see some beehive huts (early monastic settlements) dating back over a thousand years. Your tour will take you to the most westerly point of Ireland where you can view the **Blasket Islands**. You will also see the locations for such films as *Ryan's Daughter* and *Far and Away* which starred Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman and the more recently filmed *Star Wars – The Last Jedi*. You will have some free time in Dingle for lunch before returning to Killarney.

Overnight: The Killarney Plaza Hotel

Day 6 – Sun – Sept 22

Killarney – Tralee – Shannon Ferry – Cliffs of Moher – Galway

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

This morning, you bid farewell to Killarney and travel to **Tralee**, capital town of County Kerry and famous for The Rose of Tralee Festival. You continue to Tarbert where you board the **Shannon Ferry**, which crosses the Shannon Estuary to Killimer. From here you take the coast road to the majestic **Cliffs of Moher** which rise to a height of 600 ft over the Atlantic Ocean. Following some free time to view the cliffs, your tour winds its way through the lunar type landscape of the **Burren** which takes its name from the Irish word 'bhoireann' meaning, 'a stony place' or 'a rocky place', which is a good description for this 350 sq. kilometers limestone plateau. The rough, intriguing, and attractive landscape was formed 320 million years ago under a tropical sea. You continue along the shores of Galway Bay to Galway City for a two-night stay. This evening you will enjoy dinner in your hotel.

Overnight: Salthill Hotel



Day 7 – Mon, Sept 23

Galway – Aran Islands

Meals Included: Breakfast

Today you will take a break from the hustle and bustle of the mainland and travel to **Rossaveal** where you will board a ferry to **Inishmore** – the largest of the three **Aran Islands** and one of the highlights of



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the **Wild Atlantic Way**. The island is steeped in history and resembles an outdoor museum with over 50 different monuments of Christian, pre-Christian, and Celtic mythological heritage. You will take a minibus tour of the island which will include a stop at the world-renowned fort of **Dun Aonghasa** which stands over a dramatic 300-foot cliff that spans the entire western part of the island. You will have time to walk to Dun Aonghasa and enjoy the spectacular views before boarding the ferry for your return journey to Galway.

Overnight: Salthill Hotel

Day 8 – Tues, Sept 24

Galway – Connemara – Kyle Abbey – Glen Keen Farm – Westport

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

This morning you bid farewell to Galway City and travel through the famous Gaelic-speaking area of **Connemara** made up of mountains, lakelands and boglands. Because of its wild and rugged beauty, it has been the location for many films. *The Quiet Man* with John Wayne and Maureen O Hara and in more recent times *The Field* starring Richard Harris. You will visit **Kylemore Abbey**, built in 1866 and from 1920 to 2008 was home to the Benedictine Nuns. You will visit the **Abbey's Victorian Walled Garden** which is completely enclosed by a brick and limestone wall and the beautiful **Gothic Church** built by Mitchell Henry in memory of his wife who died four years after the castle was constructed. Your tour then winds its way through the scenic **Doolough Valley** taking in a stretch of road known as the famine walk and follows in the footsteps of the many people who left their home in search of food during the great famine. You will visit **Glen Keen Farm** and enjoy some freshly baked scones followed by a **sheep herding demonstration**. From here you continue by the foothills of **Croagh Patrick**, Ireland's Holy Mountain to Westport for a two-night stay. This evening you will enjoy dinner in your hotel.

Overnight: The Clew Bay

Day 9 – Wed, Sept 25

Westport – Achill Island – Westport House

Meals Included: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea

This morning you travel to **Mulranny** and cross the **Michael Davitt Bridge** to **Achill**, Ireland's largest offshore island and recently featured in the award-winning film – *Banshee of Inisherin*. As your tour follows the coastline you will get some breathtaking views on the island's spectacular **Atlantic Drive**. You will visit the deserted village at **Slievemore** which consists of 80 – 100 stone cottages (booley homes) on the southern slopes of **Slievemore Mountain**. On returning to Westport, you will visit 18th Century **Westport House** for a guided tour and before departing you will enjoy a sumptuous Victorian Afternoon Tea in the gorgeous formal Drawing Room. The remainder of the evening is free to enjoy this picturesque town of Westport.

Overnight: The Clew Bay



Day 10 – Thurs, Sept 26

Westport – Sligo – Donegal – Lough Eske Castle

Meals Included: Breakfast

This morning you depart Westport and head for **Donegal**. You will stop at **Turlough Park House** and visit the award-winning **Museum of Country Life**. This museum provides an insight into the lives of the people living in rural Ireland from the 1850's to the 1950's. Learn about the traditional trades, crafts, fashion and religion and explore Ireland's agricultural and maritime past. From here you continue to



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Drumcliffe in County Sligo where St. Colmcille founded a monastery in the 6th Century. It is also the final resting place of one of Ireland's great poets **William Butler Yeats** (1865–1939). His grave is marked by a simple headstone with the inscription, "cast a cold eye on life, on death, horseman pass by." Your next stop is **Belleek**, most famous for the fine **Parian China** produced here at Belleek Pottery, the oldest in Ireland. The China is valued by collectors from all over the world. Following a guided tour you continue to Donegal for an overnight stay in the luxurious Lough Eske Castle. This evening you will enjoy dinner in the castle's Cedars Restaurant.

Overnight: Lough Eske Castle

Day 11 – Fri, Sept 27

Donegal –Derry – Giant's Causeway – Antrim Coast – Belfast

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

This morning you travel to **Derry City** on the banks of the River Foyle. Derry City was founded in 546 AD and still retains its 17C walls. You will see the new **Derry Peace Bridge** over the River Foyle. This 235-meter-long pedestrian bridge opened in 2011 and bridges a 400-year-old physical and political gap between two sides of a once-divided community. You continue to **Limavady** where you begin the **Antrim Coast Road Drive**. Of course, no visit to Northern Ireland would be complete without a visit to the **Giant's Causeway** – a remarkable basaltic formation made of approximately 37,000 columns and ranked as one of the natural wonders of the world. Your tour continues along the **Antrim Coast Road** with spectacular views of the northern coastline to Belfast for an overnight stay. This evening you will enjoy dinner in your hotel.

Overnight: The Titanic Hotel



Day 12 – Sat, Sept 28

Belfast – Dublin

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

This morning you will enjoy a tour of **Belfast City**. You will see the **City Hall** – one of the finest Classical Renaissance buildings in Europe, the **Linen Hall Library** which has been lending books for over 200 years, and the **Grand Opera House** often described as the most beautiful Victorian theater in the world. You will drive by the many murals that Belfast has become famous for. They depict the history and political views of both traditions and are a way of marking territory. You will also visit **Titanic Belfast**, a new state-of-the-art visitor center that tells the stories of the ill-fated RMS Titanic, and her sister ships RMS Olympic and HMHS Britannic. This afternoon you travel to Dublin for an overnight stay. Tonight, you will enjoy a farewell dinner in your hotel.

Overnight: The D Hotel





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Day 13 – Sun, Sept 29

Flight from Dublin to Canada

Meals Included: Breakfast

After breakfast, you will travel to Dublin Airport for your flight home with fond memories and newly acquired accents and many stories to relate to friends and family.



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WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transportation on an air-conditioned, washroom-equipped motorcoach with a professional driver
- Services of an experienced local Ireland Tour Director
- Onboard entertainment
- City Stays at Dublin, Waterford, Killarney, Galway, Westport, Donegal, and Belfast
- Meals Included: 12 Breakfasts, Afternoon Tea, 8 Dinners
- Luggage Handling at all hotels
- City Tour of Dublin
- EPIC – Irish Emigration Museum
- Trinity College
- Guinness Brewery Tour and Pint
- Powerscourt House and Gardens
- Glendalough Tour
- House of Waterford Crystal
- Blarney Castle and Gardens
- Dingle Peninsula Tour
- Shannon Ferry
- Cliffs of Moher
- Ferry to Aran Island – Inishmore
- Minibus tour of Inishmore
- Kylemore Abbey
- Doolough Valley
- Sheep Herding Demonstration
- Achill Island
- Atlantic Drive
- Slievemore Mountain
- Guided Tour of Westport House
- Victorian Afternoon Tea
- Turlough Park House
- Museum of Country Life
- Guided tour of Belleek
- Giant Causeway
- City tour of Belfast
- Titanic Belfast
- Service charges on all meals listed
- Miles of Smiles!

Flights are not included but may be purchased at as an Add-on.
Any pre- or post-tour accommodations are not included in the tour price.

Book This Tour!

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