

# BrackTours.com

We Didn't Invent Ireland,  
We Just Made it Fun.



## *Suggested Itinerary*

### *13 night Chauffeur Driven Tour of Ireland*

#### *Executive midi coach with private driver guide*

#### **Day 1 – Thursday – Dublin to Belfast via Carlingford**

*Cead Mile Failte!* One hundred thousand welcomes! Upon clearing customs, you will be met by Dennis, your Irish Driver guide and escorted to your vehicle. You may wish to make your first stop Carlingford in Co. Louth. It is a magical village, full of character and is one of the best preserved medieval villages in Ireland. With its history and narrow medieval streets, lanes that lead to the harbour, majestic Slieve Foye Mountain and the famous mountains of Mourne across the Lough all combine to make Carlingford a unique location in Ireland. You will continue on to Belfast and will arrive in the early afternoon, why not take a tour of the ***Titanic Visitor Centre***, which tells the story of the Titanic before and after the tragedy of its maiden voyage.

#### **Suggested visits:**

- Titanic Visitor Centre

**Overnight & Breakfast: Benedict's Hotel, Belfast**

#### **Day 2 – Friday – Visit to Downpatrick & Ards Peninsula**

Following breakfast this morning you may travel to Downpatrick to visit the ***St Patrick's Visitor Centre***. St Patrick's Visitor Centre, in the town of Downpatrick is set on the foot of Strangford Lough. Although the island of Ireland is long divided by religious differences, Ireland has no division about its patron saint. After lunch you may travel along the coast and take in the Ards Peninsula. The Ards Peninsula is a peninsula in Co. Down that separates Strangford Lough from the North Channel of the Irish Sea on the north-east coast of Ireland. Arriving back in Belfast why not sit back and enjoy a panoramic tour of the city, highlighting City Hall, Queens University Botanic Gardens and the Loyalist and Republican colorful

**Mob: 00353 (0) 86 361 6935**

**E-mail: [info@bracktours.com](mailto:info@bracktours.com)**

**Web: <http://www.bracktours.com>**

**6 St. Coleman's Park | Newry | Co Down | BT34 2BX | Northern Ireland**

walled murals which tell the tale of the “Troubles”, a war which lasted over 30 years. Belfast is a Victorian city built on the linen and shipbuilding trades. The world's largest dry dock is here and the shipyard's giant cranes tower over the port.

**Suggested visits:**

- St Patrick’s Visitor Centre
- Ards Peninsula
- Belfast Panoramic City Tour

**Overnight & Breakfast: Benedict’s Hotel, Belfast**

**Day 3 – Saturday – Belfast to Bushmills via Antrim Coastline**

Following breakfast this morning you bid farewell to Belfast and drive along the beautiful Antrim coastline where you have the option of visiting Glenarm Castle & Gardens or to travel further up the coastline to visit the Carrick A Rede Rope Bridge and Giant’s Causeway. The Giant’s Causeway is Northern Ireland’s top tourist attraction, and only world heritage site. A dramatic coastal landscape steeped in local mythology which consists of around 40,000 polygonal basalt columns, jutting out into the sea amid a spectacular coastal landscape. You then will continue on to the town of Bushmills where you will be staying at the Bushmills Inn. After check in why not visit Bushmills Distillery home to the famous Bushmills Whiskey. Enjoy a private tour of the distillery and a taste of this fine whiskey at the end.

**Suggested visits:**

- Glenarm Castle & Gardens
- Giant’s Causeway
- Bushmills Distillery

**Overnight & Breakfast: Bushmills Inn, Bushmills**

**Day 4 – Sunday – Bushmills to Donegal Town via Derry City**

This morning after a hearty Irish breakfast, you may travel from Bushmills to the city of Derry. Derry has been through so much, especially since the troubles of Northern Ireland, which lasted over 30 years. The murals (*street art*) expressed by the community are personal memories and depictions of recent and past events in the city's political and social history. This is a great opportunity to take a Walking Tour of Derry to hear the history from someone who has lived there through the troubles and to also find out about the medieval history behind the walls of Derry. You continue on to Donegal town in the late afternoon where you can visit Donegal Castle, a medieval fort built by the O’Donnell Clan.

**Suggested visits:**

- Derry City Walking Tour
- Donegal Castle

**Overnight & Breakfast: Solis Lough Eske Castle**

**Day 5 – Monday – Day touring Co. Donegal**

After a leisurely breakfast at your hotel, you could start your day touring Donegal Town. Donegal means “Fort of the Foreigners”, after the Vikings who built a garrison here. You could take the coast road to Killybegs, one of Ireland's biggest fishing ports. From here you may drive along Slieve League to take in some more of Ireland’s beautiful coastline and also bear witness to some of the highest cliffs in Ireland. Slieve league is almost three times higher than the Cliffs of Moher although they are not as famous. From here you can continue up the coastline and visit Glenveagh National Park. This national treasure lies in the heart of the Derryveagh Mountains in the north-west of Co. Donegal. It is a remote and hauntingly beautiful wilderness of rugged mountains and pristine lakes. The park is divided into three areas. You may visit the largest of these and the former Glenveagh Estate. You will have a chance to browse the walled gardens and enjoy the historic grandeur of the well maintained historic estate home.

**Suggested visits:**

- Slieve League Cliffs
- Glenveagh National Park – Castle & Gardens

**Overnight & Breakfast: Solis Lough Eske Castle**

**Mob: 00353 (0) 86 361 6935**

**E-mail: [info@bracktours.com](mailto:info@bracktours.com)**

**Web: <http://www.bracktours.com>**

**6 St. Coleman’s Park | Newry | Co Down | BT34 2BX | Northern Ireland**

### Day 6 – Tuesday – Donegal to Galway via Sligo

This morning after breakfast you will set out for Galway, maybe visiting Connemara on your journey. Your drive will take you through **Drumcliff**, Co. Sligo, where you stop off at the burial place of W.B Yeats, one of Ireland's finest poets, set at the foothills of Ben Bulbin Mountain. You continue on your tour and head for **Westport** in Co Mayo. This vibrant, colourful traditional Irish town is set at the foothill of Croagh Patrick. Westport is a very popular spot and famous for its traditional Irish music culture where many famous musicians play in the array of wonderful pubs. Before continuing to your hotel, why not pay a visit to Kylemore Abbey? The abbey is the only Irish home of the Benedictine Nuns. Built originally as a castle it is one of the best examples of Irish neo-gothic architecture. The estate features include a Victorian Walled Garden, restored Abbey reception rooms, Gothic Church, tranquil walks, craft shop, pottery and a restaurant.

#### Suggested visits:

- Westport
- Kylemore Abbey

#### Overnight & Breakfast: Twelve Hotel, Barna, Galway

### Day 7 – Wednesday – Visit to Aran Islands

This morning after breakfast you may travel from Galway to visit the Aran Islands. Your ferry departs from Ros a Mhíl and crosses Galway Bay to Inisheer, the smallest of the three Islands. Here you can see a traditional way of life practiced by an Irish speaking community of around 300 people. The Celtic culture and the beauty of the place will add distinction to any walks around the island. Highlights include a Bronze Age tumulus which was exposed in 1885 when a storm cleared the sand from it. Teampall Caomháin, a 10th - 14th century church is dedicated to the patron saint of the island. Fromna Village is a traditional village where many houses are thatched. Caislean Uí Bhriain (O' Brien's castle) is one of the more impressive sites on the island. This is a 15th century Tower house and you will find an even older stone ring fort nearby. A smile or greeting on Aran comes from the heart. These islanders are genuinely glad to greet their visitors and to share their islands with them.

#### Overnight & Breakfast: Twelve Hotel, Barna, Galway

### Day 8 – Thursday – Galway to Dingle via the Burren

After a hearty breakfast you have an exciting day of travel ahead as you leave Galway and head off to tour the Burren Region. The word "Burren" comes from an Irish word "Boíreann" meaning a rocky place. This is an extremely appropriate name when you consider the lack of soil cover and the extent of exposed Limestone Pavement. However it has been referred to in the past as "Fertile rock" due to the mixture of nutrient rich herb and floral species. You will get a truly unique perspective of The Burren, if you choose to enjoy a hike with local, John Connolly at Wild Burren. Travel on in the afternoon to Dingle via the awesome & mighty Cliffs of Moher. Enjoy one of the most outstanding coastal features of Ireland and biggest Tourist Attraction. Rising sheer above the sea to nearly 700 feet and extending along the coast for nearly five miles. We continue along to Dingle where you will spend the following two nights.

#### Suggested visits:

- Cliffs of Moher

#### Overnight & Breakfast: Heaton's Guesthouse

### Day 9 – Friday – Day touring Sleah Head

This morning after a leisurely breakfast, you begin your day's touring from Dingle. The Sleah Head Drive is a circular route, beginning and ending in Dingle, which takes in a large number of attractions and stunning views on the western end of the peninsula. Take in the woodlands at Burnham, the seaside village of Vestry, as well as Sleah Head itself, marked by a stone crucifixion scene.

#### Overnight & Breakfast: Heaton's Guesthouse

Mob: 00353 (0) 86 361 6935

E-mail: [info@bracktours.com](mailto:info@bracktours.com)

Web: <http://www.bracktours.com>

6 St. Coleman's Park | Newry | Co Down | BT34 2BX | Northern Ireland

### Day 10 – Saturday – Dingle to Kinsale via Kenmare

Our drive today to Kinsale is via Kenmare and the Beara Peninsula which is combination of Kerry and Cork. Since its' origins in 1678, the heritage town of Kenmare, Co Kerry has been one of Ireland's most idyllic destinations. Nestled peacefully at the mouth of Kenmare Bay, a visit to Kenmare will leave lasting memories with its colorful shop fronts, unrivalled range of restaurants and stunning scenery. You continue your drive to Kinsale via the charming towns of Bantry, Skibbereen and Clonakilty before arriving at your hotel. Originally a medieval fishing port, historic Kinsale is one of the most picturesque, popular and historic towns on the south west coast of Ireland. It has been hailed as the Gourmet Capital of Ireland with no shortage of cafes, pubs and restaurants to suit every taste and budget.

**Overnight & Breakfast: Acton's Hotel, Kinsale**

### Day 11 – Sunday – Day touring Co. Cork

Today why not enjoy the beauty of Co. Cork as you visit the Harbour town of Cobh and tour the **Cobh Heritage Centre** located at the Victorian Railway Station. Cobh is where the Titanic made its last port of call before its one and only voyage. You may then travel west of the city to the village of Blarney. **Blarney Castle**, one of the oldest landmarks in Co. Cork, is best known for the famous "Blarney Stone" which as tradition dictates confers the gift of eloquence upon all those who kiss it. Blarney Woolen Mills flagship store is located in this picturesque village and is housed in one of Ireland's oldest and most authentic Woolen Mills. Upon returning to Kinsale, why not enjoy a guided walking tour of Kinsale village and learn more about the history of this small fishing village.

**Suggested visits:**

- Cobh Heritage Centre
- Blarney Castle

**Overnight & Breakfast: Acton's Hotel, Kinsale**

### Day 12 – Monday – Kinsale to Dublin via Kilkenny

With an early start today you bid farewell to the Southwest and travel north to Kilkenny City. The rich medieval heritage is evident in the city's treasure trove of historical buildings and landmarks, exemplified by the magnificent **Kilkenny Castle**. Kilkenny is arguably the pre-eminent medieval city in Ireland, with the current layout of the city clearly grounded in the city's medieval roots. You may now travel east from Kilkenny over to the town of Wicklow. Wicklow from Old Norse is spelt Vikinglo, which means "Viking meadow", and in Irish it is spelt Cill Mhantáin, meaning "church of the toothless one" is the county town of Co. Wicklow and the capital of the Mid-East Region in Ireland. You will arrive in Dublin in the late afternoon where your driver guide will bid you farewell once safely at your hotel.

**Suggested visits:**

- Kilkenny Castle

**Overnight & Breakfast: Brook's Hotel, Dublin – Driver Guide drop off**

### Day 13 – Tuesday – Day to explore Dublin City

After a leisurely breakfast this morning enjoy a relaxing day in **Dublin city**, enjoying highlights such as Trinity College, O'Connell Street, Molly Malone, the River Liffey, Ha'Penny Bridge, Christchurch Cathedral and St Patrick's Cathedral. You may choose to shop on Grafton or Henry Street, or enjoy a pint or two at one of the famous pubs in Dublin.

**Suggested visits: -**

- Dublin Castle
- Kilmainham Gaol
- Jameson Distillery
- Guinness Storehouse
- Trinity College & The Book of Kells

**Overnight & Breakfast: Brook's Hotel, Dublin**

**Mob: 00353 (0) 86 361 6935**

**E-mail: [info@bracktours.com](mailto:info@bracktours.com)**

**Web: <http://www.bracktours.com>**

**6 St. Coleman's Park | Newry | Co Down | BT34 2BX | Northern Ireland**

### **Day 14 – Wednesday – Homeward bound**

After a leisurely breakfast, and hotel check out you will make your way to Dublin Airport for your flight home to Chicago. It has been my sincere pleasure in designing your suggested, customized itinerary for you all. I hope you have a wonderful trip to Ireland.

***Slainte!***

### ***A few things to remember***

- Please check that you hold a valid passport for travel to Ireland.
- Recommended check-in for international flights is 3 hours, Baggage allowance – Please check with your airline and re-confirm your flight times before day of departure.
- Passengers please be advised - all hotel taxes, and service charges are included
- Some banks will not accept \$100 bills

### **NOT INCLUDED**

- Gratuity to your Driver Guide (**suggested \$10 per traveler per day**)
- Ferry crossings, attraction entrance fees, parking or tolls.
- Porterage at hotels.

**Mob: 00353 (0) 86 361 6935**

**E-mail: [info@bracktours.com](mailto:info@bracktours.com)**

**Web: <http://www.bracktours.com>**

**6 St. Coleman's Park | Newry | Co Down | BT34 2BX | Northern Ireland**