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



14 night Chauffeur Driven Tour of Ireland Suggested Itinerary

Day 1 – Sunday - Arrive Dublin

Cead *Mile Failte!* One hundred thousand welcomes! Dublin, although modern and cosmopolitan, still retains the grace and atmosphere of the eighteenth century reflected in its Georgian squares and terraces. Some of the famous landmarks highlighted along your way to the hotel are Trinity College, St Patrick's Cathedral and Dublin Castle. Before check in why not explore some of these iconic sites or pay a visit to the world famous Grafton Street. After check-in at the hotel, you may wish to explore the city or enjoy a lovely meal in the hotel restaurant or at one of the many local pubs in Dublin.

Overnight – Ashling Hotel, Dublin

Day 2 – Monday – Free Day Dublin City

After a leisurely breakfast this morning why not take a relaxed panoramic tour of Dublin on one of the Dublin city bus tours. You can enjoy some of the many famous sights and fine architectural buildings and Cathedrals the city has to offer. Explore the city at your leisure and at your own pace and visit the sights you want to see. You may choose to shop on Grafton or Henry Street, or enjoy a pint or two at one of the famous Pubs of Dublin.

Suggested visits: -

- Dublin Castle
- Kilmainham Gaol

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- Jameson Distillery
- St Patrick's Cathedral
- Trinity College
- Guinness Store House

In evening experience a casual meal in one of the many restaurants or traditional Dublin pubs for some "Ceol agus Craic".

Overnight – Ashling Hotel, Dublin

Day 3 – Tuesday – Dublin to Youghal via Kilkenny & Waterford

This morning after breakfast you will be met by your driver at hotel reception area at 10.00 am for the start of your private chauffeur driven Tour. Travel southwards to Youghal via the medieval city of Kilkenny. Kilkenny in Irish is Cill Chainnigh, meaning "church of Cainnech", and is a city located in the south-east part of Ireland and the county town of the eponymous County Kilkenny. Why not pay a visit to the Medieval Kilkenny Castle to learn more about the history of this once magnificent medieval city both before and after the Norman invasion. After spending some time walking the historic streets of Kilkenny we leave for Waterford City. This city is famously known for its Waterford Crystal. You may wish to pay a visit to the Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre which tells the story of how the crystal was founded and made, while also allowing you to buy some lovely pieces from the gift shop. Your driver guide will now take you to the Beautiful town of Youghal in Co Cork where you will be staying for the next few nights. After check in at the hotel you are free to explore this picturesque town or enjoy dinner in Ahernes Townhouse which is one of Youghal's unique treasures.

Overnight – Ahernes Townhouse, Youghal

Day 4 – Wednesday – Free day in Youghal with optional visits

This morning after a hearty Irish breakfast it is time to explore the unique and iconic places that Co.Cork has to offer. Your driver guide is at your disposal and will bring you to where your heart desires. We suggest a visit to the fishing village of Cobh where you can visit the Cobh Heritage Center, which tells the story of the Titanic's final stop before her voyage to America.

If you have ever wanted to know how an Irish Distillery operates, why not pay a visit to Middleton Whiskey Distillery to experience the process of the making of Jameson Whiskey. Alternatively you could travel a little further to visit the unique and very popular gourmet Capital of Ireland "Kinsale". Here you can take a guided walking of this beautiful fishing town.

Suggested Visits

- Cobh Heritage Centre
- Jameson Distillery at Middleton
- Kinsale (with optional walking tour)

Overnight – Ahernes Townhouse, Youghal

Day 5 – Thursday - Youghal to Dingle via Cork City, Blarney & Killarney

Bid farewell to Youghal and travel to Dingle via Cork City, Blarney & Killarney. Your driver guide may take you on a short panoramic tour of Cork City. Built on a marsh, the city is inter-laced with a winding canal and river giving it a distinctly European air. Blarney Castle is home to the world famous Blarney Stone, which is said that whoever kisses this stone will receive the gift of eloquence. After spending some time at the Blarney woollen Mills continue on to the Kingdom of Kerry, stopping of in Killarney. Here you will have the opportunity for a lunch and maybe enjoy a jaunting car ride through Killarney National Park before we continue on our way to Dingle.

Overnight – Benners Hotel, Dingle

Day 6 – Friday – Day trip of the Dingle Peninsula

After a leisurely breakfast, we set out for our tour of the beautifully rugged, scenic Dingle Peninsula and Blasket Islands. This group of Islands to the west of Sleah Head was inhabited until 1953. Many of Ireland's

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great Gaelic literary figures were born and raised on the great Blasket Island. Why not take the opportunity to visit the Blasket Visitor Centre to learn more about these unique and scenic islands. In the afternoon you will have the chance to explore the famous town of Dingle and experience the hospitality that awaits you. As a market town and fishing port, Dingle has long been well supplied with pubs; in recent years the number has hovered around 52, and the variety is almost as great as the number. You will have many options for dinner tonight in Dingle, at one of the many pubs or restaurants.

Overnight – Benners Hotel, Dingle

Day 7 – Saturday - Dingle to Ennis via Adare and/or Bunratty Village

We bid farewell to Kerry this morning and after breakfast head northwards to Co Clare. Our journey today is via Adare village in Co Limerick. Snuggled in a wooded and lush countryside setting Adare is widely regarded as being Ireland's prettiest and most picturesque village. Adare dates back to at least the 13th century, and is one of the most picturesque towns in Ireland because of its Thatched roof houses. Continue on to Bunratty Village & Folk Park. Step back in time and enjoy the sights, sounds, tastes and scents of this enchanting place as you stroll from house to house around the charming village. You also have a great opportunity to shop for some Irish treasures and souvenirs or enjoy a refreshing pint at the famous Durty Nelly's pub before travelling on to Ennis. Ennis which is taken from the Irish word Inis which means Island and is the county town of County Clare. Situated on the River Fergus just north of where it flows into the Shannon Estuary. During the 12th century the O'Brien's who were Kings of Thomond, left their seat of power in Limerick and built a royal residence at Clonroad on the then island. During 1240 King Donnchadh O'Brien ordered the construction of extensive church grounds which he later donated to recently formatted followers of St. Francis. You are free to explore Ennis after check in at the hotel and also to dine in one of the many pubs or restaurants found in the town centre.

Overnight – Old Ground Hotel, Ennis

Day 8 – Sunday – Cliffs of Moher and the Burren Region

Today travel through the villages of Spanish Point and Liscannor to arrive at the awesome Cliffs of Moher, One of the most outstanding features of County Clare, rising sheer above the sea to nearly 700 feet and extending along the coast for nearly five miles. These cliffs form one of the grandest stretches of Cliffs in Ireland, standing 214m (702 feet) at their highest point they stretch for 8 kilometers (5 miles) along the Atlantic coast of County Clare in the west of Ireland. From the Cliffs of Moher on a clear day one can see the Aran Islands and Galway Bay, as well as the Twelve Pins and the Maum Turk mountains in Connemara. O'Brien's Tower stands near the highest point and has served as a viewing point for visitors for hundreds of years. Before returning to Ennis your driver guide will take you around the Burren Region which is in North County Clare and parts of South County Galway covering an area of 160 square km, it is like no other place in Ireland. There are no bogs and very few pastures. Instead there are huge pavements of limestone called 'clints' with vertical fissures called 'grikes', in the summer months Limestone-loving plants such as foxgloves and rock roses grow out of these beautiful formations.

Overnight – Old Ground Hotel, Ennis

Day 9 – Monday – Ennis to Renvyle via Galway City

This morning after breakfast you will travel to Renvyle in Connemara along the way you have the opportunity to stop of in Galway City. Galway is also known as the "City of Tribes". The name refers to 14 important Anglo-Norman merchant families who lived there and dominated the life and trade of the city during the Middle Ages. Galway has had a long tradition of trade with Spain, and there are many Spanish influences in the city, most notably the Spanish Arch, a gateway in the old city walls and Spanish Parade. At the far western edge of Ireland you arrive at the serene and tranquil Renvyle Peninsula. Far from the pressure of city life, it is a place in which to relax and enjoy the fresh sea air, the peace, tranquility and closeness of nature. Amidst this alluring landscape, you will find Derryinver Quay and Ballinakill Harbour, one of the loveliest natural and well-protected harbors in the world. You arrive at the Renvyle House Hotel in the late afternoon you will have some time to freshen up before dining in the hotel restaurant.

Dinner & Overnight – Renvyle House Hotel, Connemara

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Day 10 – Tuesday – Kylemore Abbey & Connemara

Today why not journey to and explore the rugged yet serene Connemara area which John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara made famous in the classic, "A Quiet Man". This rocky land of broad-backed mountains and pearl-like lakes is the largest Irish speaking section of the country and the old traditions and way of life are as much a part of Connemara's attractions as is the scenery. We drive along the shores of Lough Corrib and then westward through Maam Cross to Leenane and Kylemore. Here you can visit Kylemore Abbey, 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 restaurant.

Overnight – Renvyle House Hotel, Connemara

Day 11 – Wednesday – Renvyle to Donegal via Westport & Sligo

This morning after a hearty Irish breakfast, say goodbye to the Co Galway and travel to Westport which will be your first stop of the day. Stop off at Croagh Patrick for a photo shot, five miles from the picturesque town of Westport and the mountain's conical shape soars majestically above the surrounding countryside. After exploring the vibrant town of Westport and walking its beautiful streets continue on to Sligo home to the famous W.B Yeats. Your drive today takes you through Drumcliff Co Sligo, here you may stop off at the burial place of W.B Yeats one of Ireland's finest poets, set at the foothills of Ben Bulbin Mountain. Continue to travel northwards and arrive in Donegal Town where you can enjoy a great base from which to explore all Donegal has to offer.

Overnight – Solis Lough Eske Castle, Donegal

Day 12 – Thursday – Killybegs & Slieve League Cliffs

Today you can explore the beautiful county of Donegal, firstly visiting Donegal Town. Donegal means "Fort of the Foreigners", after the Vikings who built a garrison here. The restored Donegal Castle in the town center incorporates the gabled tower of a fortified house built by the O'Donnell family in the 15th century. Then take the coast road to Killybegs, one of Ireland's biggest fishing ports. You will have some time to explore Killybegs and a chance to get some lunch from any of fine restaurants and cafes within the town. From here drive along Slieve League to take in some 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. You will return to Donegal Town in the late afternoon allowing for free time to independently explore at your leisure.

Overnight – Solis Lough Eske Castle, Donegal

Day 13 – Friday – Donegal to Bushmills via Letterkenny & Derry

This morning travel to Co Antrim via Letterkenny & Derry. Letterkenny in Irish is Leitir Ceanainn which means "Hillside of the O'Connors" is the largest and most populous town in county Donegal. From here travel on to Derry City and enjoy a panoramic tour on arrival. Derry has come 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. When in Derry/Londonderry why not take a walking tour with Ronan McNamara who is a man with a story in every corner, a tale to tell for each drop of history that you see and he knows every secret etched on the walls of Derry City (*need to be pre-booked if required*) It's time to depart this wonderful city of culture and head to your last destination which is Bushmills in Co.Antrim.

Overnight – Bushmills Inn, Antrim

Day 14 – Saturday – Giants Causeway & Bushmills Distillery

Following breakfast at the very unique award winning hotel, enjoy a drive along the beautiful Antrim coastline where you can 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

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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 may want to visit The Bushmills Distillery home to the world famous Bushmills whiskey. You can enjoy a private tour of the distillery, while also enjoying a taste of any of the Bushmills Whiskey at the very end.

Overnight – Bushmills Inn, Antrim

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 Tour Director (**suggested \$10 per traveler per day**)
- Ferry crossings, attraction entrance fees, parking or tolls.
- Porterage at hotels.

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