

Presents

A Small Group Tour of Dublin and the South West of Ireland

Booking Reference: 11136



INTRODUCTION TO OUR SMALL GROUP TOUR:

Travelling as part of a small group with maximum 12 guests. Immerse yourself in our wellpaced experience of Dublin, and the magnificent beauty of South-West Ireland. Panoramic ocean views, unspoilt wilderness, national parks. And what a way to experience the worldfamous hospitality of the Irish.

You'll stay in hand-selected, premium hotels, including a castle, rich in ancestral history. Your friendly driver-guide will be with you throughout your trip, making every day incredible.

Day 1: Arrive in Dublin. Cead mile Fáilte!



As your plane touches down at Dublin airport, you will be met and escorted to a luxury vehicle and privately transferred into Dublin. Dublin centre is just 10km from the airport and if you wish, you'll enjoy a short orientation tour of the centre, en route to your hotel. Subject to traffic and times, your driver-guide may show you O'Connell Street and the General Post Office; the Proclamation was read here for the first time on Easter Sunday 1916. Your short tour might also include the Garden of Remembrance

and The Custom House. Don't worry, you'll have plenty of time to see more tomorrow, once you're rested.

Arriving at your central Dublin 4-star hotel, you'll stay here for two nights. Our preferred choices are: <u>The Green</u>, <u>The Davenport</u>, <u>Brooks Hotel</u> or <u>The Ashling</u>. This evening is free for you to relax and explore.

Should you need recommendations for dinner, you only have to ask. With local knowledge and a love of the city, we're armed with delicious ideas.

More about your driver-guide

From a team of employed professionals, your driver-guide will soon become a firm friend. Relaxed and flexible, their job is to ensure you have a memorable experience and a very enjoyable time. Some have likened it to winning the lottery or feeling like royalty.

They'll accompany you for eight hours a day, taking an hour for lunch. They'll safely transport you in your luxury vehicle and manage the daily detail. Most importantly, you'll find our driver-guides offer a wealth of knowledge about Ireland, new and old. Listen to their stories, experience Irish character first-hand, and see hidden sights only the locals know. Our driverguides are what makes your trip so very special.

Day 2: Dublin: A walking tour and time to explore

After your first Irish breakfast, you'll meet our friendly local guide in your hotel lobby. They'll take you on an informative, private three-hour walking tour of Dublin city. Offering a fascinating insight into Ireland's capital, you'll learn more about life in Dublin.

Key highlights include Dublin Castle – an impressive 13th century building, now a major government complex since independence in 1922. You'll also see The Custom House near Dublin Port. Opened in 1791, it's awash with neoclassical splendour. And no visit would be complete without experiencing the Georgian doors of Dublin first-hand. Colourful and decorative, they're now part of Dublin's DNA.





Your walking tour will end at Trinity College Library: home to the Book of Kells. Nestled in the heart of Dublin along ancient cobbled stone lanes, we've included your entrance fee to admire this lavishly decorated and most historical book. Crafted from vellum, it contains the four Gospels in Latin, dating back to 384AD. The book is famous throughout the world.

With the afternoon and evening free to explore further, we'll happily make your arrangements. You might favour The Irish Emigration Museum, The Guinness Storehouse or The National Gallery. Even a spot of Irish shopping? Try the public transport or keep your driver for the afternoon, we'll plan it all for you if you want. You're never left not knowing what to see or do next.

Day 3: Dublin to Cork: the land of saints and scholars

Today, your Irish adventure leaves Dublin behind. There's so much more to discover!

In the safety of your luxury vehicle and with the company of your trusted driver-guide, you'll travel south-west towards Cork. There's 265km of scenery to soak in and many sites to stop at along the way. We include entrance fees to two sites.

The Rock of Cashel is the site where St Patrick chose to make the head of his church in Ireland. The Rock of Cashel is a spectacular group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale including the 12th century round tower, High Cross and Romanesque Chapel, 13th century Gothic cathedral, 15th century Castle and the restored Hall of the Vicars Choral.



The Jameson Experience at the Midleton Distillery. Without wood there is no whiskey. Sure there's more to it than that, but casks play a vital role. Visitors to the Old Midleton Distillery are shown around our cooperage. The maturation process is something we are unashamedly particular about, and visitors will be able to walk amongst 1000s of casks which are temporarily housing our ageing whiskey. All guided tours



take in the exterior and interior of our distillery grounds, and there is a choice of tour types available. Your tour will of course include a tasting of the famous Whiskey.

At the end of an incredible day, you'll check in to your room at <u>Actons Hotel</u> (or similar). Your stay includes full Irish breakfast.

Day 4: Cork to Killarney: The Wild Atlantic Way



Following breakfast, you'll say goodbye to Kinsale town and continue along your route. There are many ways to reach Killarney – some coastal, others inland. With the help of your trusted driver-guide, you'll make the best decision on the day, taking the weather into account. Heading to Old Head of Kinsale before you leave is a scenic "must". That's the first stop, Then its onto Blarney Castle.

Blarney Castle – you might have heard about the legendary Stone of Eloquence? Kiss it, and words will never fail you. Since 1446, the stone has been homed in the tower at Blarney Castle – built 600 years ago and now a world landmark here in Ireland.



You'll arrive in Killarney during the afternoon It's a pretty town boasting many 18th century buildings of interest. Situated on the shores of Lough Leane, it's flanked by Killarney National Park. This is your Irish home for the next three nights.

We offer many hand-picked 4-star hotel options in Killarney. Including the <u>Great Southern</u>, <u>The Royal</u> and <u>The International</u>

Relax and have fun in Killarney this evening. The town has plenty to offer and as ever, your devoted driver-guide will be on-hand with recommendations to help you make the most of it.

Day 5: The Ring of Kerry

It's another fine day for stunning scenery as your attentive driver-guide tours you round the Ring of Kerry. A circular coastal route forming part of The Wild Atlantic Way, it unveils many hidden gems, tucked away in this stunning westerly landscape.

You'll first travel to Killorglin, via the pretty coastal village of Glenbeigh. It hosts one of the



finest Atlantic sandy beaches in Ireland. You can also choose to stop and experience a sheepdog demonstration with Brendan Farris, an Irish border collie trainer. Your journey continues around the Ring of Kerry. Dingle Bay is worth a stop. You'll be drawn to the miles of sandy beaches, crashing waves and soaring cliffs. It's a photographer's paradise. And your driver-guide takes the guesswork out of searching for the best viewpoints.

Cahirciveen is on your route – the birthplace of Ireland's Great Liberator: Daniel O'Connell. And if time permits, you might take the short detour around Skellig Ring (some say it's even more serene than the Ring of Kerry) and cross the little road bridge to Valentia Island. Talk about hidden gems! You'll spot Skellig Island from here – a location for the latest Star Wars films.

And the coastal beauty continues to unfold as you drive through Sneem village and Molls Gap – a climbing mountain pass that affords yet more awe-inspiring views of Ireland at its very best. Back towards Killarney National Park, you'll arrive in Killarney during the afternoon (a little later if you took the detour). Muckross House & Gardens or Torc Waterfall are two additional sights, should you wish.

Tonight we include the Celtic Steps show in Killarney this evening, to experience some magnificent Irish music and dancing. Your driver-guide will provide round trip transfers.

Day 6: The Dingle Peninsula

You'll be glad of your driver-guide today as they take you to marvel at the very best views on the Dingle Peninsula. It's Ireland's most westerly point and rich in wild and rugged beauty. Slea Head Drive will be the highlight: once cited as "the most beautiful place on earth" by National Geographic. And one of the top 100 destinations in the world by TripAdvisor. Tucked away in gorgeous Ireland. The drive is a circular route that starts and finishes at the pretty harbour town of



Dingle. You'll see fascinating archaeological remains intertwined with secluded sandy beaches and wild open countryside. If you want to escape from it all, there's no better place. The air is clear, the natural light is captivating. You'll feel a sense of peace and calm from beginning to end.

Walk on the beach and squelch the sand in your toes if you fancy. Imagine how those Neolithic settlers felt in 4,000BC. This was home to them. We also include a delightful 2-hour Food tasting tour of Dingle, visiting some wonderful artisan food shops. With Irish as its first language, this ancient town sits within one of the Gaeltacht regions. Be assured that your driver-guide will escort you through and ensure you enjoy your experience of traditional Irish life.

For your final evening in Killarney. we include a special whiskey and chocolate tasting in the town and the evening is free to relax and enjoy the pubs and the music.

Day 7: The Cliffs of Moher

This morning you'll say goodbye to Killarney and travel north to the coastal town of Tarbet. Here, you'll take a short ferry journey across the Shannon estuary and join another section of The Wild Atlantic Way. Your first destination? The Cliffs of Moher.

It's easy to see why The Cliffs of Moher are a UNESCO Global Geopark. You'll be struck by their staggering height (up to 668 feet) and endless stretch (5 miles). Such a natural landmark makes you feel humble in the world we live. Enjoy the far-reaching views across the Atlantic Ocean, take a wind-swept stroll along the cliff tops, spot basking sharks and dolphins in the waters below (on a calm day). Your driver-guide will advise you on the most memorable beauty spots and particular things to look out for.



Like Kittiwakes and Razorbills. Coastal sea pinks and pretty wildflowers. Entrance to the visitor centre is included, enabling you to learn more about this natural Irish wonder.

Your journey continues north through the Burren Region; a Geosite that's home to Burren National Park. With curious limestone landscape formed 300 million years ago, you'll spot intriguing mushroom-like stone formations and structures – all naturally formed by the wild, Irish environment. Rich in archaeological history, you'll see many ancient monuments and Neolithic sites. Your driver-guide will fill in the detail as you go.

Your final overnight is at either <u>Dromoland Castle</u> or <u>Adare Manor</u>, 2 superb 5 star hotels within easy reach of Shannon Airport for your departure.

Day 8: Farewell for now: your adventure is complete

Has the time flown by? What an incredible journey. What an experience of Ireland's best and finest. And yet, today, it comes to a close. Treasure those memories and special times. You'll be sad to leave our gregarious and charming land, but you can always return. There's more to discover and we'd love to see you again!

As ever, your dear driver-guide is on-hand to drive you to Shannon airport for your return flight. They'll drop you just where you need to be, ensuring your departure is stress-free and easy. After some fond farewells, you'll be safely on your way. If you prefer to fly out of Dublin, we include a transfer on Day 8 to Dublin Airport (2hrs15mins)

WHERE YOU ARE STAYING HOTEL SELECTIONS





The Green is ideally placed in the heart of Actons of Kinsale is situated in the heart of Dublin City Centre, adjacent to St Stephen's the colourful historic harbour town of Green and less than five minutes' walk Kinsale also referred to as the Gourmet from Grafton Street, Dublin's premier Capital of Ireland. Actons is the oldest shopping district. The area around St hotel in Kinsale. Stephen's Green is probably the most picturesque part of the city, as much of the Georgian architecture has been preserved.



ACTONS HOTEL - KINSALE

4 STAR

4 STAR



KILLARNEY GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL -**KILLARNEY**

This hotel stands proudly as Killarney's Ireland's moment's walking distance of the sublime Dromoland. Killarney National Park.



DROMOLAND CASTLE - NEWMARKET ON FERGUS

most magical address. Premier Historic Hotel. Surrounded by 6 Dromoland Castle, has been welcoming acres of beautiful gardens right in the guests since the 16th century. The 5-star centre of bustling Killarney town, within a ancestral home of the O'Brien's of

5 STAR

4 STAR

What's Included?

This is a small group tour with maximum 12 guests. Ideal for individuals or couples to book and travel with other guests and experience the Real Ireland guided by an expert.

The Price is €2695 per person sharing. Single Supplement €795

Private Tours are also possible please click here to schedule a call back from one of our experts to discuss what's on your wish list.

Please see below for complete list of included services.

HOTELS:

On this trip, you'll enjoy seven nights' bed and full Irish breakfast. The hotel below are examples of the property you will stay in. Your hotels will be confirmed and named once you book the trip.

- <u>The Green Hotel</u> (or similar 4 star) Dublin: two nights in a king or twin room.
- <u>Actons Hotel</u>, (or similar 4 star) Kinsale Co. Cork: overnight in a king or twin room.
- <u>The Great Southern Hotel</u> (or similar 4 star) Co. Kerry: three nights in king or twin room.
- <u>Dromoland Castle</u> or <u>Adare Manor</u> for the last night

All communications costs, hotels taxes and fees are also included and the services of our professional travel experts on the ground are available to you 24/7 days a week throughout your trip

Driver-guide services

You'll have exclusive use of our professional driver-guide services for five days. One driver will meet you straight from your flight to Dublin and provide the transfer. You'll then have an expert driver/guide to accompany the group until arrival at your 5 star hotel on Day 7. A local driver will safely transfer you to Shannon airport on Day 8.

The vehicle will be a luxury executive Minicoach with leather reclining seats, air conditioned, water is provided daily and there is free wifi on board (subject to coverage)

Dublin walking tour

We organise your three-hour tour with an expert local guide.

Entrance fees

These are included for the following sights:

- Trinity College for the Book of Kells
- The Rock of Cashel
- Blarney Castle
- The Celtic Steps Irish Show
- The Cliffs of Moher including the Atlantic Edge Experience

We also include hotel taxes and fees, communication costs and the help of our local travel experts throughout your trip; 24/7.

We simply want you to focus on having an incredible time. It's that simple.

What's *not* included

- Your flights to and from the USA or Europe
- Gratuities and tips to driver-guides and local guides
- Anything that we've not mentioned above

Ready to book?

Great! Let's get started. To secure this tour on your preferred dates, please click on the "book this tour" button at www.irishluxurytours.com .