

Day 1 - Arrival in Dublin

Welcome to Ireland!

You will be met at the airport from your international flight by your driver! You will recognize him as he will have a sign with Tenon Tours and your name. If you are in Terminal 1 Arrivals Hall, please walk towards the Coffee Dock, for Terminal 2 arrivals, please keep right, you will see silver railings and a Spar Convenience Shop. Plan on your transfer taking about 30-40 minutes, depending on traffic, with drop off at your accommodations. (Flights are not included yet as they have not been released for May 2020 travel but we will explore options once they are available).



If your rooms are not ready, you may leave your bags with the desk, get a bite to eat and start exploring on your own or have a rest in the comfortable hotel lobby while your rooms are made ready.

Rest of the day is yours to relax and get to know the city!

Stretching across the banks of the River Liffey on the east coast of Ireland, Dublin, or 'Baile Átha Cliath' as it is known in the Irish language, is a unique mix of old Gaelic charm and new cosmopolitan liveliness. You might turn a corner to find a beautifully preserved medieval cathedral, and yet around another find a modern art gallery. Signposts around town will include both English and the Irish language and you won't be hard-pressed to find a pub full of Dubliners young and old singing traditional music.

With its cobbled streets and modern facilities, Dublin takes care to remember the past and look forward to the future. Throughout its parks and monuments, its statues and museums, the city charms visitors with its effortless combination of old and new.

Included today is entrance to the Guinness Storehouse with the Connoisseur Experience. In Guinness's luxurious private bar, discretely tucked away in a secluded area of the Guinness Storehouse, embark on a journey through the tastes, traditions and stories of the most popular variants of the "black stuff"- Guinness Draught, Guinness Original, Guinness Foreign Extra Stout, and one of their beers from The Brewers Project range. You will also learn the craft of how to pour the perfect pint of your very own Guinness.

As Ireland's top visitor attraction, the contemporary design of the building and seven levels within provide a fascinating journey through the history of the beer. At the end of your experience, enjoy your free pint and take in views over the city on the 7th floor Gravity Bar! (If anyone prefers a visit to the Jameson Distillery and a complete Whiskey Experience instead, please let me know as this can be arranged!)

For dining this evening, you may want to check out Gallagher's Boxty House for dinner, it's right in Temple Bar and you can make reservations online ahead of time and we recommend you do as if you walk in, you will not be seated before 10pm, it's that popular! They do traditional Irish food and it's very good and reasonably priced.

If you want something more upscale, Chapter One is the place in Dublin. My favorite pub in all Dublin is the Brazen Head, the oldest pub in Dublin, where you will always find good food, and will always have a great time!

Settle in early for the night!

Day 2 - Dublin

Wake up early and enjoy your first Irish breakfast this morning! Today you will embark on a fun-filled walking tour by a private guide through this capital city. What better way to explore the city of Dublin, than through the eyes of a local!

Dublin is a city with a soul, a place that has not lost sight of the fact that people are more fun than museums and that genuine human interaction is not the preserve of small villages. Founded in 841 by the Vikings, it is a city with an interesting past. Its many monuments tell of its history. Today, Dublin is the Cosmopolitan capital of the Irish Republic and a city of over one million people. Despite the many changes the city has witnessed during the last decade, it still remains a city ready to welcome all who wish to visit. Taking advantage of its compact size, the walking tour of Dublin allows visitors to soak in the atmosphere and buzz of the city, whilst enjoying an informative and entertaining tour.

After your tour, you can grab some lunch and then continue exploring downtown! If you are interested in history, you might want to see the GPO Museum, Kilmainham Gaol, and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Glasnevin Cemetery is also very fascinating! John Kavanagh's "Gravediggers" pub is nearby and does great Irish food!

You could also enjoy a stroll and people watching with a walk down Grafton Street or stop by Bewley's Oriental, a great place for tea and depending on time, maybe a stop at Brown Thomas, which has great shopping (or at least window shopping!)

You might also check out the Dublin Writers Museum and the The Hugh Lane Gallery. There's free National Museums including the Natural History Museum (Dubliners call it the Dead Zool!)

Finish the evening and have a pint in one of our recommended pubs: Bruxelles, International, Keogh's, Long Stone, McDaid's, Neary's, or the Stag's Head!



Day 3 - Dublin to Galway

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and say farewell to Dublin! You will meet your personal driver/guide this morning, who will escort you through Ireland for the next week. Your driver will be sent your itinerary in advance to really maximize your time and make the most of your trip! You can discuss the day's plans each morning in case there are any last minute changes that need to be made or that might work better, all depending on weather and road conditions!



You'll be traveling through the Midlands of Ireland along your way to Galway. On your way out of Dublin, we suggest stopping at Newgrange in County Meath (entrance to the visitor center included). Newgrange is a prehistoric monument in County Meath and it was built during the Neolithic period, around 3,200 BC. It's a large circular mound with an inner stone passageway and chamber, which illuminates during the Winter Solstice. The Brú Na Bóinne Visitor Centre is designed to present the archaeological heritage of the Boyne Valley, which includes the fascinating megalithic passage tombs of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. The extensive exhibition includes a full-scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange as well as a full model of one of the smaller tombs at Knowth. The center is the starting point for all visits to both monuments, and contains extensive interpretative displays and viewing areas.

****Please note, restrictions have been placed by the Irish government on the number of visitors to Newgrange each year to preserve the site. Space is limited and subject to availability at the time of booking****

From here, continue to Galway! Once in the city, your driver will drop you off at the hotel to check-in and settle in before you meet a local guide for a splendid walking tour of this vibrant town!

The city center of Galway is mainly pedestrian, so a walking tour is really the best way to enjoy its atmosphere and discover some of its most important monuments. The tour starts on Eyre Square and finishes at the Claddagh. During the tour you will see Lynch Castle, home to the mayors of Galway, Saint Nicholas Church founded in the 13th century, and the famous Spanish Arch. You can walk along the Corrib River to the Claddagh village or to the majestic Cathedral.

After your tour, you can start exploring some of the restaurants and pubs! McDonagh's is a great spot for dinner tonight with some of the best seafood in the area!

Day 4 - Galway

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, meet your driver for another wonderful day in Ireland! Your agenda today is to visit County Sligo, where your family history and heritage is based. One of the most beautiful things to do in Ireland is to discover your heritage and learn more about who your family was and how it shaped your family today. This will be a great day dedicated to visiting the area of which your family originated! If you have any information regarding specific towns or locations you want to visit, let us know in advance!



Known for its literary heritage and picturesque countryside, Sligo is a major center for the West of Ireland. With a long history as a port and market town, it's great for touring and offers many opportunities for outdoor activities. If you are interested in William Butler Yeats, Ireland's beloved poet, you'll find the Yeats Center and many places nearby associated with his life and work. The pedestrian streets are lined with inviting shopfronts, stone bridges spanning the River Garavogue, and traditional Irish music from within the pubs.

Along the way, depending on the timing of the day, your driver can guide you through the beautiful landscapes of Connemara!

As you drive along the coastline you will witness tiny coves, bays, and fishing villages, that paint an incredible lifelong picture in your mind. It's a vast expanse of mountains, bogs, heathland, and lakes. Some places that might be worth a stop (again depending on time), would be Clifden and Kylemore Abbey.

Clifden is a wonderful town on the coast with a great setting, good pubs and restaurants! Nearby, Dan O'Hara's farm makes a good visit if anyone is interested.

Kylemore Abbey is definitely worth a visit as well! It's a Benedictine monastery founded in 1920 and has a beautiful walled garden, a scenic setting and a one of the best gift shops in all Ireland.

Your journey will end back in Galway for another incredible night in town!

Day 5 - Galway

As you've been on the go since you've stepped foot in Ireland, today provides an opportunity for some much needed relaxation! Nothing is scheduled in your itinerary today but the options for tours and excursions are endless, if you want to keep moving :) For anyone that wants to just relax, spending time in Galway city, exploring the local pubs and shops is a great way to spend the day and meet the locals.

For those that want to keep going, you have some great options! Perhaps a round of golf at the nearby Galway Bay Golf Club, or horseback riding through the Connemara National Park, there are even some great Food Tours, where you can sample local cuisine and make new friends!

For those looking for a bit more adventure, I would suggest a visit to the Aran Islands!

A true Irish experience awaits as you journey to the Aran Islands! Locals speak Irish as well as English in a setting of Celtic churches of historical significance including World Heritage site Dun Aengus, which is set on a dramatic 300 ft cliff edge. The island of Inis Mór (Inishmore) meaning the big island, is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Ireland. It is well known internationally with over 50 different monuments of Christian, pre-Christian and Celtic mythological heritage.

If you decide on this excursion, you will meet in Galway this morning for the shuttle to the ferry port at Rossaveal before boarding the ferry to the island of Inishmore. Here you will enjoy a mini-coach tour with entrance to the Dun Aengus Fort. After this tour, enjoy free time on the island taking a pony and trap, hiring a bicycle, or strolling along the peaceful burreens before returning by ferry to Rossaveal and back to Galway by shuttle.

Spend this evening in the town meandering down the small streets adjacent to the picturesque harbor and enjoy your last night in Galway!



Day 6 - Galway to Killarney

Check out of your hotel this morning in Galway and meet your driver for a journey to the southwest area of Ireland!

Your first stop on today's drive is a visit to the Cliffs of Moher in Doolin (entrance included) approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes away. Standing 230 meters above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O'Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, to entertain his lady friends. A visit of the tower is also possible. The sweeping view across the Atlantic has recently been ranked the best "cliff-view" on the planet by Conde Nast Traveler. The respected travel publication has voted the world famous landmark at the top of a new chart of "Nine Gorgeous Cliff Views That Rival The Grand Canyon".



The total drive from the Cliffs to Killarney is roughly 2 hours and 40 minutes. Along the way, Kilfenora is an absolutely wonderful place to visit. Known as the gateway to the Burren region, it is a beautiful village rich in history and culture. Kilfenora was the site of early monastic settlement in the sixth century and gained the title of "City of the Crosses" due to the beautifully carved 9th and 10th century High Crosses found here.

Your next stop will be in Bunratty, a little town in County Clare for a visit to the Bunratty Castle (admission included)!

Bunratty Castle is one of the most complete and authentic medieval castles in Ireland. Built in 1425 and plundered on many occasions, it was authentically restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendor and now contains mainly 15th and 16th century furnishings and tapestries capturing the mood and the style of the times. The castle hosts evening medieval banquets and takes the participants back to the time that the castle entertained its visitors with fine food, wine and song. Within the grounds of Bunratty Castle is Bunratty Folk Park where 19th century life is vividly recreated. Set on 26 acres, the impressive park features over 30 buildings in a 'living' village and rural setting. Meet and chat with the Bean an Ti (Woman of the House) and various street characters including the Policeman and Schoolteacher. Enjoy the tastes, scents, sights and sounds of this enchanting place as you stroll from house to house or around the charming village complete with school, post office, doctors house, hardware shop, printers and of course the pub!

You will then arrive in Killarney, a beautiful town located on the shores of Lough Leane and a stop on the famous Ring of Kerry drive as well as the starting and finishing point of the 200 km Kerry Way walking trail. In town, you will find St. Mary's Cathedral and across the bridge, the Killarney National Park, home to the Victorian mansion, Muckross House. Enjoy the next two nights at a hotel in the heart of town!

Day 7 - Killarney

Another hearty breakfast this morning in the southwest of Ireland! Today your driver will take your group on an incredible journey to either the Ring of Kerry or the Dingle Peninsula, the choice is yours to decide! (We do ask that this decision is made prior to the trip so the driver can make the proper arrangements but we can work together on figuring out the best option for you!)

Should you choose the Dingle Peninsula, you will experience some of the finest coastal scenery to be seen in Ireland. This peninsula is famous for its Celtic, pre-Christian monuments and Christian churches. It is also a 'Gaeltacht' (Irish speaking) area, where the Irish language and traditional ways of life are preserved. Dingle town itself is a thriving fishing town and offers plenty of opportunity for shopping or simply savoring the atmosphere of a typical country Irish town with its plentiful pubs, narrow streets and busy harbor. The road around the Peninsula is truly spectacular. It passes through a chain of Mountains, called Slieve Mish.



From Inch, a long beach bordered by dunes and made famous by David Lean's movie "Ryan's daughter," admire the Iveragh Peninsula and Rossbeigh Beach. From Dingle, drive around the coast to Sleah Head. Here the blue of the marine landscape surrounds the Blasket Islands, deserted since 1953. In the distance are the two rocky Skellig islands, where the ruins of an early Christian Monastery can be found. The Dingle Peninsula will charm you with its villages painted in bright colors and will bewitch you with the dramatic beauty of its landscapes.

Your other option today is the famous Ring of Kerry (166km) drive. The astonishing beauty of this large peninsula, Iveragh, comes from the great diversity of its scenery, which offers incessant contrasts. En route around the Ring, take in spectacular scenery - mountains, peat bogs, lakes and magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean as one travels along the coast road.

Leaving Killarney pass through Killorglin, famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula and Dingle Bay. Continuing to Cahirciveen, you'll pass the birthplace of our National hero, Daniel O'Connell. Next, continue on through peat bogs to the town of Waterville. Continue to Sneem Village, famous for its brightly colored houses.

The road then continues through the mountains to Molls Gap and Ladies View with superb views of the famous Lakes of Killarney. Molls' Gap is a spectacular photographic viewing point on the famous Ring of Kerry. The visitor is presented with a magnificent view of Black Valley. Close by is the famous Ladies View viewing point with gives a different perspective of this magnificent countryside, with the 3 Lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains. Ladies View received its name from Queen Victoria, who was so impressed with the view that she insisted that her ladies-in-waiting should also visit here.

Spend the evening walking through the town of Killarney browsing the various shops boasting local favorites and consider dining at The Porterhouse - a personal favorite of mine!

Day 8 - Killarney to Dunboyne

Say farewell to the friends you've made in County Kerry and meet your driver this morning to head back east for the last night of your trip! Although your trip is coming to an end, there is still so much to see!

On the way to Dunboyne, your guide will take you about an hour and a half east to County Cork for a visit to the Blarney Castle and Stone!

Attracting visitors from all over the world, Blarney Castle is situated in Blarney village, 8 km from Cork city. An ancient stronghold of the McCarthy's, Lords of Muskerry, it is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney stone, the Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the truth behind the legend. The Castle gardens covering 60 acres of land are under constant change and over the past few years, a water garden, fern garden and poison garden have been developed and are all open to visitors.

After some time here, you will grab some coffee and head on the road to continue just north of Cork to the area of County Tipperary for a visit to the Rock of Cashel!

Possibly the most photographed site in Ireland, the Rock of Cashel towers over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone. Once the seat of the Kings of Munster. St. Patrick visited the rock in 450 AD, while Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. Granted to the church in the twelfth century, by the O'Brien clan, today the impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, a cathedral, a twelfth century Romanesque chapel and high crosses. The Vicars Choral has been recently restored and its basement houses a small museum of artifacts found on the site. One of the leading visitor attractions in Ireland, in 2011 it was visited by Queen Elizabeth II on her historic first visit to the Republic of Ireland.

Your journey ends today as your driver drops you off outside Dublin at your accommodation for the evening! Spend time together toasting the wonderful trip you've had and the amazing memories you've made!



Day 9 - Departure to the Dublin Airport

It is time to say good bye to the Emerald Isle! Check your flight status and meet your driver who will take you to the Dublin Airport.

This Irish airport offers USA bound passengers full U.S. customs and immigration Border Control pre-clearance so that you do not have to clear customs at your entry airport in the USA. If you are making a connection in the USA you can check your bags right through to your ultimate destination.

We hope you have safe travels home and be sure to check out our survey on the performance of this app.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, may the luck of the Irish, be smiling on you! Goodbye, or "Slán abhaile", as the Irish would say!

