

ELEGANT IRELAND TOUR 2027

A Private Luxury Tour

Our “Elegant Ireland” tour combines luxurious properties in magnificent settings, customized sightseeing and the secret ingredient: the Irish people being themselves. Each property is selected for its amenities and ambiance.

DAY 1

USA – IRELAND

Depart the USA on an overnight flight to Ireland (flight not included).

DAY 2

DUBLIN

Morning arrival at Dublin Airport. After clearing customs, we transfer on our own (a 10-minute taxi ride; the taxi stand is outside baggage claim) to our five-star, city-center hotel. Spend the rest of the day enjoying the sights of this 1,000-year-old city.

Overnight at the Westbury Hotel, Dublin.

DAY 3

DUBLIN

After a hearty Irish breakfast we meet our Driver Guide in the lobby. We take a half-day panoramic tour of Dublin and visit the Guinness Storehouse. Your driver then drops you off at Grafton Street in the heart of Dublin, where you can have lunch in one of the many pubs or restaurants. As you walk, you are bound to be enchanted by the street performers and musicians hoping to entertain you. You may also want to venture to Temple Bar, Dublin’s famous nightlife district. **Overnight at the Westbury Hotel, Dublin.**

DAY 4

DUBLIN –
MONASTERBOICE –
BELFAST

After a hearty breakfast we meet our Driver Guide in the lobby of the hotel and travel north via Drogheda to Monasterboice. Monasterboice is a monastic settlement founded in the 5th century and home to some of the finest carved stone high crosses in Ireland, including Muiredach’s Cross (c. AD 923). We then travel through Dundalk and on to Belfast, where we take time to tour Titanic Belfast, truly one of the best museum experiences you will ever have. We then enjoy a panoramic tour of Belfast before arriving at our home for the next two nights, the magnificent Hastings Culloden Estate & Spa. This five-star hotel occupies a 19th-century Scottish baronial estate and offers every modern amenity, including an indoor pool, leisure center and spa. **Overnight at the Culloden Hotel, Belfast.**

DAY 5

BELFAST – GLENS OF
ANTRIM – GIANT’S
CAUSEWAY – BELFAST

Today we travel the Coast Road, which takes us through the Nine Glens of Antrim, considered one of the most beautiful drives in Ireland, with wonderful views of mountains, valleys and coastline. On a clear day you can see Scotland. Our first stop is Bushmills, the oldest licensed distillery in the world, where we savor a sample of this renowned amber liquid. We then continue along the coast to the Giant’s Causeway. This impressive area of hexagonal columns was formed some 60 million years ago by cooling lava. We return to Belfast via Ballymena. **Overnight at the Culloden Hotel, Belfast.**

DAY 6

BELFAST – ARMAGH –
ENNISKILLEN – DONEGAL

After a hearty Irish breakfast we depart for Armagh, the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland. It is here that St. Patrick founded a church, and the town has remained a religious center. We continue west to Enniskillen, the county town of Fermanagh, whose center sits on an island between the upper and lower Lough Erne. Next we visit the famous Belleek Pottery, in existence since 1857. Belleek produces fine Parian china, sold worldwide for generations. An Irish tradition is to give a newlywed couple a piece of this china so that they will be blessed with lasting happiness. **Overnight at the Solis Lough Eske Castle Hotel, on a secluded lakeside estate whose history goes back to the 1400s.**

DAY 7

DONEGAL – SLIGO – CONG

After breakfast we visit Drumcliffe, the burial place of the poet William Butler Yeats. Our journey continues to the tiny town of Cong, where much of John Ford's classic film *The Quiet Man* was filmed. We arrive at Ashford Castle. Ashford Castle is a five-star hotel and one of the Leading Hotels of the World. This 13th-century fairy-tale castle overlooks a picturesque lake and is one of the most luxurious castle hotels in Ireland. On the grounds of the estate you will feel transported back in time. Ashford was once home to the Guinness family, renowned for their brewing expertise. Perhaps you will choose to walk through the estate's spectacular gardens. Ashford Castle also offers an equestrian center, a spa and a 9-hole golf course. Tonight we enjoy a gourmet dinner in the George V dining room. Sleep like a king or queen this evening. **Overnight at Ashford Castle.**

DAY 8

CONG – CONNEMARA –
GALWAY – CLIFFS OF
MOHER – LIMERICK

After a gourmet breakfast we depart Ashford Castle and travel along the northern edge of Lough Corrib to the Connemara region, one of the most scenic and unspoiled areas in the country. Next is a stop in Galway. We continue to the Cliffs of Moher, which rise some 700 feet above the unforgiving Atlantic coastline. We then continue to Limerick, where we enjoy a panoramic tour. **Overnight at Dromoland Castle.**

DAY 9

LIMERICK – DINGLE –
KILLARNEY

After breakfast we depart Limerick for the Dingle Peninsula. The journey begins with some of the most magnificent scenery in all of Ireland. The little town of Dingle is straight out of a storybook, with fishing boats in the harbor and tiny, brightly painted pubs that reflect a place where time has stood still. We continue to Slea Head. Along the way we see beehive-style huts (clocháin) associated with early Christian monks, overlooking the rugged Blasket Islands. There is no other landscape in western Europe with the density and variety of archaeological monuments found on the Dingle Peninsula. It is then on to Killarney. **Overnight at the Killarney Park Hotel, one of the finest luxury hotels Ireland has to offer. Perfectly located in the heart of Killarney town center, set in mature grounds and framed by the legendary surroundings of Killarney National Park, it is a five-star hotel like no other.**

DAY 10

RING OF KERRY

After breakfast we enjoy an optional tour of the beautiful Gap of Dunloe in Killarney National Park. We then start a full-day tour of the Ring of Kerry. There is an unspoiled nature to Ireland's most beautiful region, and the Ring provides many unforgettable memories as it passes through picturesque villages such as Glenbeigh, Waterville and Sneem and returns via Ladies' View and the famous Lakes of Killarney. **Overnight at the Killarney Park Hotel.**

DAY 11

KILLARNEY – BLARNEY –
CORK

After breakfast we depart Killarney and head towards Cork City. Our next stop is the picturesque town of Blarney, home of Blarney Castle and the Blarney Stone, which legend says bestows the "gift of eloquence" on all who kiss it. There is time to shop at the historic woolen mills or stop in Christy's Pub for a pint. We depart Blarney and travel to Cork City, where we enjoy a panoramic tour before reaching our destination, the five-star Hayfield Manor. A sanctuary in the city, Hayfield Manor is set among two acres of park-like grounds. **Overnight at Hayfield Manor.**

DAY 12

CORK – COBH – KINSALE –
CORK

After breakfast we travel to the Cobh Heritage Centre. Millions of Irish people emigrated from this port. Learn the Irish emigration story, trace your ancestors, hear about the ill-fated Titanic and the Lusitania, and immerse yourself in Irish naval and military history. We then travel on to Kinsale for lunch. The picturesque yachting harbor of Kinsale is one of the many colorful gems strung along the coast of County Cork. Narrow, winding streets lined with galleries and gift shops, lively bars and superb restaurants, and a handsome natural harbor filled with yachts and guarded by a huge 17th-century fortress make it an engrossing place to spend the day. **Overnight at Hayfield Manor.**

DAY 13

CORK – CASHEL – DUBLIN

We depart Cork after breakfast and travel northeast. We stop for a photo opportunity in County Tipperary at the historic Rock of Cashel, a stone fortress rising some 200 feet above the town. Cashel was a seat of the Kings of Munster from around the 5th century, and it is said that St. Patrick used the shamrock here to explain the Holy Trinity to the kings of Munster; the surviving buildings date mainly from the 12th and 13th centuries. We continue through the Midlands to Dublin. The rest of the day is your own to explore the shops and pubs along the famous pedestrian walkways. **Overnight at the Westbury Hotel, Dublin.**

DAY 14

DUBLIN

Today you tour Dublin on your own with your included Hop-On Hop-Off Dublin Bus Pass, which will show you St. Patrick's Cathedral, where the writer Jonathan Swift gave his sermons; the G.P.O. on O'Connell Street, scene of the 1916 Easter Rising, where the bullet holes remain to this day; famous Phoenix Park, where Pope John Paul II said Mass in 1979; and finally Trinity College, home of the Book of Kells, the illuminated manuscript created by monks around AD 800 and still beautifully preserved. Why not also visit the Jameson Distillery? **Overnight at the Westbury Hotel, Dublin.**

DAY 15

DUBLIN – DUBLIN AIRPORT

Morning departure from your Dublin hotel by taxi on your own to Dublin Airport. Please ask the concierge to arrange a taxi pickup at your desired time.

YOUR DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE TOUR INCLUDES

DRIVER GUIDE

- Sightseeing by deluxe midi coach with leather seating and a professional Irish Driver Guide from Day 3 (Dublin) until arrival in Dublin on Day 13

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Deluxe room accommodations in luxury castles, country homes, hotels and manors for 13 nights, all five-star:
- **Dublin – Westbury Hotel** – 2 nights, 5-star
- **Belfast – Culloden Hotel** – 2 nights, 5-star
- **Donegal – Solis Lough Eske Castle Hotel** – 1 night, 5-star
- **Cong – Ashford Castle** – 1 night, 5-star
- **Limerick area – Dromoland Castle** – 1 night, 5-star
- **Killarney – The Killarney Park Hotel** – 2 nights, 5-star
- **Cork – Hayfield Manor** – 2 nights, 5-star
- **Dublin – Westbury Hotel** – 2 nights, 5-star

MEALS

- Full Irish breakfast daily
- Gourmet dinner at Ashford Castle (Day 7)

ADMISSIONS

- Titanic Belfast
- Giant's Causeway
- Bushmills Distillery
- Belleek Pottery
- Cliffs of Moher
- Cobh Heritage Centre
- Rock of Cashel
- Hop-On Hop-Off Dublin Bus Pass

ALSO INCLUDED

- Fully escorted sightseeing as per itinerary
- Hotel taxes
- Deluxe portfolio of travel documents professionally prepared by Hammond Tours

NOT INCLUDED

- Tip to your Driver Guide
- Any items of a personal nature
- Dinners and suggested optional sightseeing not mentioned as included in the itinerary

This is a suggested itinerary and can be customized to your interests. Dates, hotels and pricing are provided on request.