

HIDEAWAYS & BACKROADS 2027

A Private Chauffeur-Driven Tour of Ireland

DAY 1

USA – IRELAND

Depart the USA on an overnight flight to Ireland.

DAY 2

SHANNON – LIMERICK –
ADARE – DINGLE

Morning arrival at Shannon Airport, where after clearing customs you meet your Driver Guide. We travel a short distance to Limerick, Ireland's third-largest city and home of author Frank McCourt, who wrote *Angela's Ashes*, and enjoy a city tour before continuing to Adare. Adare has been voted one of Ireland's prettiest towns and is home to original thatched cottages that are still in use today. The next stop is Tralee, where every August the famous Rose of Tralee festival is held and some lucky woman is crowned for a year. We continue to Dingle, where your Driver Guide checks you into your hotel for a well-deserved rest. Enjoy an early dinner at one of the many popular restaurants in town. **Overnight in Dingle.**

DAY 3

DINGLE

After breakfast, experience the true beauty of Ireland on a full-day tour of the breathtaking Dingle Peninsula. We head out to Sleat Head and its dramatic views of the Blasket Islands. We then stop at Gallarus Oratory, a perfect example of early Irish architecture. The oratory was built in the shape of an upturned boat and is reputed to have stayed watertight for over a thousand years. Along with the spectacular scenery of Sleat Head, the Conor Pass is unequalled for its vast panoramas of lakes, mountains and sea, and at its summit there is an excellent view of Dingle Bay. **Overnight in Dingle.**

DAY 4

DINGLE – KILLARNEY –
WATERVILLE

After breakfast we depart Dingle and travel via Inch Strand, a beach at the head of Castlemaine Harbour and considered one of the best bathing beaches on the peninsula. Many travelers recall this beach from the film *Ryan's Daughter*, starring Sarah Miles and Robert Mitchum. Continuing on this road, we travel through the town of Castlemaine, made famous as the home of "The Wild Colonial Boy." We then continue to Killarney, one of the largest visitor attractions in Ireland, most noted for its scenic network of lakes and its small-town hospitality. Our driver takes us through the town, and we have time to stop and browse this storybook town with its shops, pubs, cathedrals and historic sights. Perhaps you will want to take an afternoon jaunting cart ride from the center of town to historic Muckross House and Gardens. We then travel southwest along the Ring of Kerry towards Waterville, a favorite holiday spot of Charlie Chaplin, where time has really stood still. **Overnight in Waterville or Killarney.**

DAY 5

WATERVILLE – KINSALE

We continue our back-roads journey through Kenmare and Glengarriff, past Bantry Bay, to Bantry, where we stop for a visit. Bantry sits at the head of one of Ireland's most beautiful bays, and its narrow streets lined with shops have changed very little over the last hundred years. We continue on to Skibbereen, made famous by the ballad "The Old Skibbereen" and by its sad history in the Great Famine. Next we visit the fishing village of Baltimore, where we stop for lunch (on own) and take in the beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean. After our stop, we journey along the southern coast of Ireland, with its unmatched back-road scenery, to our final destination of Kinsale. Known as the Gourmet Capital of Ireland, Kinsale is a culinary delight set in a postcard fishing village. Your Driver Guide will give you dinner suggestions, although one of our favorites is the Blue Haven in the center of Kinsale. After dinner, browse the small cobblestone streets where many artisans make their home, producing photographs, paintings and sculpture. **Overnight in Kinsale.**

DAY 6

KINSALE

After breakfast we visit Charles Fort, overlooking Kinsale and built around 1677, and enjoy spectacular views of Kinsale Harbour in the morning sun. Seven miles south of Kinsale is the Old Head, with its clifftop castle ruins overlooking the spot where a German submarine sank the Lusitania in 1915. This afternoon we travel east to nearby Cobh, home of the Cobh Heritage Centre. The center depicts emigration from Ireland to the United States and beyond during the mid-1800s, the time of the Great Famine. Spend time in this moving exhibit, tracing the steps where the journey to the New World began for many Irish Americans. We then return to Kinsale. **Overnight in Kinsale.**

DAY 7

KINSALE – SHANNON AREA

We depart Kinsale and travel north through Cork City, where we enjoy a panoramic tour of Ireland's second city. Nearby we visit Blarney, home of Blarney Castle and its famous Blarney Stone, and its plentiful woolen mills. After shopping, be sure to take a quick walk through this charming town and enjoy a pint at Christy's Pub. We depart Blarney and travel north through Mallow, on the River Blackwater, a popular spa town in the 18th century. We continue to the Shannon area, where we bid farewell to our Driver Guide, who by now seems like a member of the family. This evening you can enjoy an optional medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle. **Overnight at the Bunratty Castle Hotel.**

DAY 8

SHANNON – USA

Make your own way by taxi to Shannon Airport, leaving plenty of time for last-minute duty-free shopping before boarding your flight home. Arrive home the same day.

YOUR DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE TOUR INCLUDES

DRIVER GUIDE

- Professional Irish Driver Guide with chauffeured vehicle from your arrival at Shannon Airport on Day 2 until arrival in the Shannon area on Day 7

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 6 nights as follows, or similar:
- **Dingle – Dingle Benzers Hotel** – 2 nights, 4-star dinglebenzers.com
- **Killarney – Killarney International Hotel** – 1 night, 4-star killarneyinternational.com
- **Kinsale – Actons Hotel** – 2 nights, 4-star actonshotelkinsale.com
- **Bunratty – Bunratty Castle Hotel** – 1 night, 3-star bunrattycastlehotel.com

MEALS

- Full Irish breakfast daily

ALSO INCLUDED

- Hotel taxes

NOT INCLUDED

- Tip to your Driver Guide
- Any items of a personal nature
- Dinners and suggested optional sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary
- Admissions not listed above. These are paid directly to each venue so that, because a private tour is meant to be flexible, you never pay for a site you later decide not to visit

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