

IRELAND FAMILY CLASSIC VACATION 2027

Especially Prepared for Families and Children

Designed with families in mind, this unforgettable vacation offers something for family members of every age. We can customize any itinerary to suit the needs of your individual family, with something to do for all ages.

DAY 1 DUBLIN

Morning arrival at Dublin Airport, where after clearing customs you transfer on your own to your Dublin hotel. The rest of the day is free to browse this 1,000-year-old city on your own. **Overnight in Dublin.**

DAY 2 DUBLIN TOUR – EPIC MUSEUM – DUBLIN GHOST TOUR

After breakfast we meet our courteous and professional blue-badged Irish Driver Guide in the lobby of the hotel. You will be sure to see 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. We then visit EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, which has many interactive exhibits that children enjoy. This evening, discover Ireland's haunted past on a Dublin ghost tour by bus. Visit the chilling Bully's Acre cemetery and learn how watchmen witnessed gravediggers in action, admire Dublin Castle, where some of Ireland's most historic events have taken place, and stop at St. Audoen's, Dublin's oldest continuously used parish church. Visit the original Gravediggers Pub and enjoy a free "ghoulish brew," and listen to accounts of strange occurrences at Kilmainham Gaol. A free pass for the Haunted Dublin Historical Walking Tour is included when you purchase the ghost tour through your concierge. **Overnight in Dublin.**

DAY 3 DUBLIN – KILDARE – GLENDALOUGH – KILKENNY – CORK

After breakfast we make our way south to Kildare, home of the Irish National Stud & Gardens, where children can see the horses (optional stop). We continue south to Glendalough, the monastic settlement founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century. A possible family stop near Kilkenny is Dunmore Cave, a series of chambers formed over millions of years, containing some of the finest calcite formations found in any Irish cave. The cave has been known for many centuries and is first mentioned in the 9th-century Irish Triads. We then continue to Cork and enjoy a panoramic tour of the city, home to several magnificent churches, including St. Anne's Shandon and St. Fin Barre's Cathedral. Cork is the second-largest city in Ireland, and its name comes from the Irish Corcaigh, meaning "marshy place." The ancestors of American automobile pioneer Henry Ford came from County Cork. **Overnight in Cork.**

DAY 4

CORK – FOTA – KINSALE –
CORK

After breakfast we make our way to Fota Wildlife Park, where children can see many mammals and birds up close, with informative tours for adults as well. We then continue to Kinsale, one of the most picturesque and fashionable resorts of the southwest coast, famous for yachting, sea angling, gourmet restaurants and golf. Charles Fort, a popular attraction, was built in the late 17th century on the site of an earlier coastal fortification. It is a classic star-shaped fort with five bastions; the two seaward bastions, the Devil's and the Charles', were built to defend the harbor. Desmond Castle, known locally as "The French Prison," was built around 1500 as a custom house. Its colorful history ranges from Spanish occupation in 1601 to use as a prison for captured American sailors during the American War of Independence. It got its local name after a tragic fire in 1747 in which 54 prisoners, mainly French seamen, died. It was later a borough jail and, during the Great Famine, an auxiliary workhouse for the starving. There is time to explore this area before we return to Cork. **Overnight in Cork.**

DAY 5

CORK – BLARNEY –
KILLARNEY – KISSANE
SHEEP FARM

Our first stop is Blarney Castle, home of the Blarney Stone, which legend says bestows the "gift of eloquence" on all who kiss it. There is time to shop at the woolen mills or stop in Christy's Pub for a pint. Our journey takes us west over the Kerry and Cork mountains to Macroom, where we pause for a short visit. Macroom is the main market town for the Gaelic-speaking region to the west. Macroom Castle dates from the 13th century and was the seat of the McCarthys of Muskerry. Oliver Cromwell granted it to Admiral Sir William Penn, whose son, William Penn, spent much of his childhood here and later founded the colony of Pennsylvania. We arrive in Killarney, with time to explore the town and Killarney National Park, where you can bicycle, take a jaunting cart ride, or simply enjoy the town and the park. Time permitting, you might also enjoy an hour of horseback riding at the Killarney stables. We continue to Kenmare and Moll's Gap, where we visit (optional) the Kissane Sheep Farm. **Overnight in Killarney.**

DAY 6

DINGLE PENINSULA &
BLASKET CENTRE

Today we discover the beauty of the Dingle Peninsula, made famous by David Lean's movie *Ryan's Daughter*. We drive along the south shore of the peninsula for plenty of vistas of heathery mountains, sandy beaches and rocky headlands, with frequent stops to admire the views and take photos. We stop in the town of Dingle for some leisure time before continuing to Sleat Head at the western tip of the peninsula. Visit the Blasket Centre in Dún Chaoin (Dunquin) to learn about the Blasket Islands, inhabited until 1953 by hardy families who eked out a living from farming and fishing. Dingle Harbour was for decades the home of Fungie, a famous bottlenose dolphin that arrived in 1984 and became a great friend to the locals, and an optional boat trip from the harbor is a lovely way to look for dolphins, seals and seabirds (wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed). On land, Dingle Oceanworld Aquarium has an impressive assortment of sharks, penguins, reptiles, otters and jellyfish, with interactive displays to thrill young and old. **Overnight in Killarney.**

DAY 7

KILLARNEY – BURREN –
CLIFFS OF MOHER –
TRADITIONAL IRISH FARM
– BUNRATTY

Today we tour the Burren (Bhoireann), “the stony place.” It is home to rare alpine plants, delicate wonders that grow in the thin soil and crevices, including gentians, orchids and maidenhair ferns. The survival of both alpine and Mediterranean plants in this unusual habitat continues to delight visitors. The Burren contains dozens of megalithic tombs, Celtic crosses and the ruins of Corcomroe, a 12th-century Cistercian abbey. You can find villages abandoned since Famine times and green roads on which you can walk for miles without seeing a car. We continue to the majestic Cliffs of Moher, which rise up to 700 feet above the Atlantic. O’Brien’s Tower is the best place from which to view the cliffs, and from this vantage point you can see the Aran Islands, as well as the Twelve Bens and the Maumturk Mountains to the north in Connemara. While in the Burren region, we may stop at the Aillwee Cave, a favorite for families. As you leave the cliffs, you travel through the little village of Liscannor, and across the bay you can see the seaside village of Lahinch, a golfers’ mecca. We then visit a traditional Irish farm, where children can feed the animals and we are introduced to authentic farm life. It is then on to quaint Bunratty, home of Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. **Overnight in Bunratty.**

DAY 8

SHANNON AIRPORT

Transfer on own by taxi the short distance to Shannon Airport.

YOUR DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE TOUR INCLUDES

DRIVER GUIDE

- Professional Irish Driver Guide with luxury vehicle from Day 2 (Dublin) until arrival in Bunratty on Day 7

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 7 nights as follows, or similar:
- Dublin – 2 nights
- Cork – 2 nights
- Killarney – 2 nights
- Bunratty – 1 night

MEALS

- Full Irish breakfast daily

ALSO INCLUDED

- Fully escorted sightseeing as per itinerary
- All Driver’s expenses (except tip to the driver)
- 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.