

SPIRITS SECRET IRELAND WHISKEY TOUR

2027

A Private Chauffeur-Driven Tour

This increasingly popular tour takes you behind the scenes to experience the way some of your favorite spirits are created, while exploring the beauty, sights and culture of Ireland. We can customize any itinerary to include any additional interests you may have.

DAY 1 DUBLIN

Arrive at Dublin Airport from your overnight flight. After clearing customs, transfer on own by taxi or Uber to your hotel. You have the rest of the afternoon free to explore Dublin. Today we visit the famed Jameson Distillery, established by John Jameson in 1780. Jameson Irish Whiskey is made by blending rich pot still whiskey, made from both malted and unmalted barley, with the finest grain whiskey, all distilled three times for smoothness. Enjoy the 90-minute Black Barrel Blending Class. **Overnight at The Alex Hotel, Dublin.**

DAY 2 DUBLIN (ON OWN)

Today you tour Dublin on your own. We suggest a 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. In the afternoon we visit the Guinness Storehouse, where we also enjoy a pint at the Gravity Bar, followed by a visit to the Teeling Distillery. Tonight we make our way by taxi or Uber to Taylors Three Rock Dinner Cabaret, a three-part show with Irish folk singers, an Irish comedian and Irish dancers. Dinner is included at Taylors Three Rock. **Overnight at The Alex Hotel, Dublin.**

DAY 3 DUBLIN – KILKENNY – CORK

After breakfast we meet our Driver Guide in the lobby of the hotel and make our way to Kilkenny, where a whiskey tour is sure to delight. Ballykeefe Distillery is owned and managed by the Ging family, who trace their unbroken farming lineage as far back as written records exist. Morgan Ging's fascination with the shared history of Irish farming and Irish whiskey led him to dream of diversifying the family farm with a distillery, as was common centuries ago. It took 25 years of research and painstaking effort to bring the dream to fruition. The tour is a journey through every part of the operation, which has revived the lost tradition of the family farm distillery with a commitment to environmental protection, carbon neutrality and sustainability. There is also time to visit Kilkenny Castle if you like. We then continue to Cork. **Overnight at the Imperial Hotel, Cork.**

DAY 4

KINSALE – YOUGHAL –
MIDLETON

This morning we enjoy quaint, picturesque Kinsale, including a Walking Food Tour of Kinsale, with time to browse the artisan streets of this food capital. This afternoon we travel along the coast, the “Irish Riviera,” to the seaside village of Youghal and enjoy some time in this quaint town. We continue to Midleton, famous for Midleton College, founded in 1696, and for the Midleton Distillery, founded in 1825, which produces Irish whiskey, known to many Irish as “uisce beatha,” the “water of life.” We then return to Cork. **Overnight at the Imperial Hotel, Cork.**

DAY 5

CORK – CLONAKILTY –
SKIBBEREEN – BANTRY –
GLENGARRIFF –
KILLARNEY

We depart Cork and travel to the Old Head of Kinsale, the nearest point to where the Lusitania was sunk in 1915. It is a lovely drive and well worth the trip to admire the setting. Clonakilty is next, with colorful, traditional shop fronts and hand-painted signs that reveal their contents. Here too is the Michael Collins Centre, which tells the story of the Irish patriot who was born nearby and rose to prominence during and after the Easter Rising. We enjoy a visit to Clonakilty Distillery. Its founders, the Scully family, have farmed this coastal land for eight successive generations, and their commitment to both heritage and innovation has led them to revive ancient malting barley varieties from which they create a range of whiskeys. Continuing along the coast, we visit the Drombeg Stone Circle, known locally as the Druid's Altar and dating to around 900 BC. The circle of 13 stones is in a magnificent setting with beautiful sea views. The busy town of Skibbereen is rightly known as the capital of West Cork, the hub from which the many sparkling jewels of the area can be reached. The town has strong ties to the Famine, which devastated the local community, and there is a large famine graveyard in nearby Abbeystrewry. The Heritage Centre here has an excellent exhibition. Eight miles southwest is the little fishing village of Baltimore. We then travel via Bantry and Glengarriff to Killarney for our overnight. Killarney was a monastic settlement from the 5th or 6th century, and housing settlement began here around 1500. Explore colorful laneways and a fine cathedral, and experience the ambience of the busy town center. Killarney is nestled amid deep, lake-filled valleys with astounding sights such as the famous Ladies' View (named after Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting) and the MacGillicuddy's Reeks, Ireland's highest mountain range, home of Carrauntoohil, the country's highest peak. **Overnight at The Great Southern Hotel, Killarney.**

DAY 6

DINGLE

After breakfast we depart Killarney 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 portray a time that has stood still. Its population of just under 2,000 is welcomed by around 50 pubs. Worth the wait is the native seafood chowder served at lunchtime with freshly baked brown bread. We continue on to Sleat 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. This afternoon we visit the Dingle Distillery. When it was founded, 500 casks were made available to whiskey lovers, investors and connoisseurs, and those who invested in a cask are known as Founding Fathers of the distillery. Each cask is individual, painted with the Founding Father's name, fill date and cask number, and its owner chose the wood in which to mature the whiskey: port, sherry, madeira or bourbon. **Overnight at The Great Southern Hotel, Killarney.**

DAY 7

KILLARNEY – LIMERICK –
TULLAMORE – KILBEGGAN
– K CLUB

Morning departure from Killarney. We continue to Limerick, Ireland's third-largest city and home of author Frank McCourt, who wrote *Angela's Ashes*. Its origins date to the 9th century, when Vikings settled the site. Limerick is known as the "City of the Broken Treaty": the Treaty of Limerick (1691), which surrendered the city to William of Orange, promised respect for the rights of Catholics, but its terms were soon breached. The treaty was signed on the Treaty Stone, which can still be seen today. King John's Castle is a fortified 13th-century castle on King's Island in the heart of medieval Limerick, overlooking the River Shannon, and brings to life the stories of the people through political upheaval, war and famine. We then cross the Irish Midlands, first to the Tullamore Dew Distillery and then to Kilbeggan Distillery, a small pot still distillery on the River Brosna in Kilbeggan, County Westmeath, now owned by Beam Suntory. Its licence to distil dates to 1757, and a copy of the licence can be seen in the distillery. **Overnight at the K Club, Straffan.**

DAY 8

DUBLIN AIRPORT

Transfer on own by Uber or taxi to Dublin Airport.

YOUR DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE TOUR INCLUDES

DRIVER GUIDE

- Professional blue-badged, certified Irish Driver Guide from Day 3 (depart Dublin) until the end of Day 7 at the K Club

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 7 nights as follows, or similar:
- **Dublin – The Alex Hotel** – 2 nights, 4-star alexhotel.ie
- **Cork – Imperial Hotel** – 2 nights, 4-star imperialhotelcork.com
- **Killarney – The Great Southern Hotel** – 2 nights, 4-star greatsouthernkillarney.com
- **Straffan – K Club** – 1 night, 5-star kclub.ie

MEALS

- Full Irish breakfast daily (except day of arrival)
- Dinner at Taylors Three Rock Cabaret (Day 2)

DISTILLERY TOURS & EXPERIENCES

- Jameson Distillery (Black Barrel Blending Class)
- Guinness Storehouse
- Teeling Distillery
- Ballykeefe Distillery
- Middleton Distillery
- Clonakilty Distillery
- Dingle Distillery
- Tullamore Dew Distillery
- Kilbeggan Distillery
- Walking Food Tour of Kinsale
- Dublin Hop-On Hop-Off Bus Pass

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