

SCENIC IRELAND TOUR

June 15 - July 28, 2011 14 Days



PACE OF TOUR

Leisurely Active

Leave no stone unturned or unvisited on this journey through Ireland. Start your vacation in the "Fair City" of Dublin with an orientation drive that includes O'Connell Street, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and a visit to Trinity College with its Book of Kells. South through the Wicklow Mountains, pausing at Ballyknocken House for an entertaining baking demonstration. Next up: Kilkenny and its castle, Waterford, Blarney, Cork, Garinish Island, Killarney, Dingle Peninsula, Limerick, and the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher. Visit the fishing village of Clifden and Kylemore Abbey, experience the rugged Atlantic Coast of Donegal, and learn about life in Northern Ireland from your Local Guide in Derry. In County Antrim, admire Dunluce Castle and visit awe-inspiring Giant's Causeway, then south via Belfast to Dublin for the end of your vacation



TOUR PRICE per person, sharing.

Double occupancy	\$3,862
Single supplement	\$467

DEPOSIT: \$300 per person non-refundable.

HEALTH: None required. Consult with your physician and health clinic.

DOCUMENTATION: Valid Canadian passport 6 months beyond return date (recommended).

INSURANCE: Comprehensive Insurance \$150 per person including tax.

VISA: No visa required for Canadian Citizens.

INCLUSIONS

- Professional Tour Director and local guides.
- Direct flights from Toronto with Air Transat.
- Accommodation in first class hotels.
- Gratuities to Guides & Coach drivers.
- Meals as listed. • Sightseeing as listed.
- Roundtrip airport transfers at destination.
- Tour Leader accompanies you from Toronto with a minimum number of participants

Day 1 - DEPART TORONTO - DUBLIN - Depart for your transatlantic flight to Dublin.

Day 2 - ARRIVE IN DUBLIN , IRELAND (D) - Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax in the Irish capital. At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companion for a welcome dinner at your hotel.

Day 3 - DUBLIN (B) - An orientation drive in the "Fair City" includes statue-lined O'Connell Street, elegant Georgian squares, and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Then, a highlight visit to Oscar Wilde's Trinity College, famous for the 1,200-year-old Book of Kells and the magnificent Old Library. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 4 - DUBLIN - KILKENNY - WATERFORD (B,D) - Vistas of the Wicklow Mountains unfold as you head for a special visit to Ballyknocken House, a typical Irish family-run farm guesthouse. Your host will present an entertaining Baking demonstration and then serve coffee and scones fresh from the oven. Travel on to the pretty county town of Kilkenny, and then to Waterford for a guided tour of the newly opened House of Waterford Crystal. Dinner.

Day 5 - WATERFORD - BLARNEY - CORK (B) - The first of the day's highlights is an entertaining walk through Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, in the company of a Local Guide. Then, journey to Blarney, renowned for its magical Kissing Stone. Overnight in Cork, Ireland's second-largest city. Rest of the day at leisure.

Day 6 - CORK - GARINISH ISLAND - KILLARNEY (B) - This morning, board a private boat for the short crossing to Garnish Island, whose warm waters attract colonies of seals. Then, head over the mountains into County Kerry. At Kenmare, join part of the Ring Of Kerry and stop for spectacular photos of the Lakes of Killarney from Ladies View before arriving in the popular resort of Killarney.

Day 7 - KILLARNEY (B,D) - Panoramic views on Dingle Peninsula on the way to the Blasket Islands Centre. Learn about the way of life and unique literary achievements on the string of remote offshore islands evacuated by the last inhabitants in 1953. Visit Dingle, then return to Killarney.

Day 8 - KILLARNEY - ADARE - LIMERICK (B) - A morning at leisure in Killarney with time for an optional excursion by horse-drawn jaunting car. In the afternoon, drive via quaint Adare, renowned for its pretty thatched cottages, to Limerick. A suggestion for a very special night out: attend an optional banquet at Bunratty Castle.

Day 9 - LIMERICK - CLIFFS OF MOHER - GALWAY - CLIFDEN (B,D) - Motor to the Cliffs of Moher, rising 668 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, and savor the breathtaking panorama of the Clare coast. Next, a special treat: at Rathbaun Farm, watch the farmer shear a sheep and maneuver a flock with the help of a sheep dog, then, enjoy your morning coffee and home-baked scones. In Galway, hear about the infamous Lynch Stone,

commemorating the day Mayor James Lynch Fitzstephen hanged his son for murder. Call at the Joyce family's Marble Workshop before spending the night at Clifden.

Day 10 - CLIFDEN - KNOCK - DRUMCLIFF - BUNDORAN (B,D) - Visit Kylemore Abbey, the massive castle acquired by Benedictine nuns, for a visit to the restored house, church, and gardens. Pause at Westport before continuing on to Knock, a village that attracts pilgrims from all over the world. On the way to the resort of Bundoran, stop at Drumcliff on Sligo Bay to visit the grave of native son and poet W.B. Yeats.

Day 11 - BUNDORAN, DONEGAL EXCURSION (B,D) - A day dedicated to wild and beautiful Donegal. Follow the scenic Atlantic coast around Donegal Bay with its small fishing ports and hidden beaches. Visit the ancient town of the same name, founded by the Danish Vikings and home of the O'Donnell Clan. Later, call on the Belleek Pottery, renowned for its exquisite cream-colored Parian china.

Day 12 - BUNDORAN - DERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND-GIANT'S CAUSWAY - BELFAST (B,D) - In Derry, walk the city walls in the company of a Local Guide. After lunch, pass Dunluce Castle before visiting the awe-inspiring Giant's Causway. Arriving in Belfast, learn more about this fascinating city, where the Titanic was built, during a city orientation tour.

Day 13 - BELFAST - KNOWTH, IRELAND - DUBLIN (B) - This morning, drive in the lee of the Mountains of Mourne back into the Irish Republic. At Bru na Boinne (Palace of the Boyne), one of the world's most important archaeological landscapes, visit Knowth, where your guide explains the fascinating passage-grave dating from the Bronze Age. Back in Dublin tonight, your Tour Director will have recommendations for a fitting farewell to Ireland.

Day 14 - DEPART DUBLIN - TORONTO (B) - Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

INCLUDED SIGHTSEEING

Dublin - Welcome dinner; orientation drive, visit Trinity College.

Ballyknocken House - Cooking demonstration and morning coffee and scones. **Kilkenny** - Explore this pretty county town.

Waterford - Guided tour of the House of Waterford Crystal; guided walking tour. **Blarney** - Visit the famous village.

Glengarriff - Private boat to Garinish Island.

Ring of Kerry - Take pictures of the Lakes of Killarney.

Dingle Peninsula - Visit the Blasket Islands Centre, town of Dingle.

Adare - Admire the thatched cottages.

Cliffs of Moher - Savor the spectacular views.

Rathbaun Farm - See the farmer at work and enjoy morning coffee in the farmhouse.

Galway - Orientation. **Connemara** - Visit a marble workshop.

Kylemore - Visit the Benedictine abbey.

Westport - Visit this heritage town.

Knock - Visit the religious site.

Drumcliff - Visit W.B. Yeats' grave.

Belleek - Guided tour of the pottery factory.

Derry - Guided walking tour.

County Antrim - Take pictures of Dunluce Castle, visit the Giant's Causeway. **Belfast** - Orientation tour

Boyne Valley - Guided tour of the Bronze Age passage-grave at Knowth.