

An Irish Summer Adventure August 14-23rd 2017 Day-by-Day Itinerary

Aug 14th: **Heading for the Emerald Isle**

Today we start our journey by flying across the United States and taking an overnight flight across the Atlantic Sea to Ireland.

Aug 15th: **Welcome to Ireland**

This morning we will land in Dublin Airport and once you proceed through to the arrivals area, **you will be met and transferred to your first destination, Co. Dublin**, the small capital with a huge reputation.

We will take a panoramic sightseeing tour of Dublin to see local landmarks and historic buildings like the GPO (General Post Office) on O'Connell Street and Trinity College, housing the Book of Kells. Afterwards, we will journey deep into the heart of the world famous Guinness brand and company. **We will visit Guinness Storehouse to hear the story of Ireland's iconic drink**, bringing to life the heritage of Guinness from early days to growth as a global brand, known all around the world.



We will check in to our hotel and you are free to spend the rest of the evening as you please. Enjoy one of city's many restaurants for dinner and you simply can't visit this city without popping your head inside some of its brilliant pubs.

Overnight: Wynn's Hotel, Dublin

Aug 16th: **Next Stop...Kilkenny**

Enjoy on your breakfast this morning as **we prepare to bid Dublin farewell in search of new adventures in Co. Kilkenny**, recognized as the heritage capital of Ireland. On route, **we will stop in Co. Wicklow, known as 'The Garden of Ireland'** to visit one of Ireland's most famous attractions, **Glendalough**, a fascinating early Christian settlement positioned in a glaciated valley with two lakes and founded by Saint Kevin in the 6th century.



Following this, we will reach Kilkenny to check in and with the rest of the day to yourself, you can see Kilkenny the way you would like to see it. **Later, meet up with the group to**

share dinner together and enjoy the vibrant music scene—deeply rooted in traditional Irish Music—and fantastic cuisine, and live the Irish life in Kilkenny.

Overnight & Dinner: Farmhouses, Kilkenny

Aug 17th: Day Tripping to Waterford

Indulge on a hearty Irish breakfast this morning as we prepare to head for sightseeing on the south east region of Ireland. Our first visit will take us to Dunbrody Famine Ship and Irish Emigrant Experience in Co. Wexford where we will enjoy a guide tour taking us through the fateful journey made by so many Irish people during the Great Famine.



We will then visit the oldest city in Ireland, Waterford City to enjoy time in this engaging city famed in equal parts for its crystal production and Viking history. Consider visiting the House of Waterford Crystal or the Waterford Museum of Treasures before meeting the group to return to Kilkenny to share dinner together and enjoy the remainder of the evening here. **Overnight & Dinner: Farmhouses, Kilkenny**

Aug 18th: The Best of Southern Ireland

This morning, refuel on breakfast and **prepare to depart Co. Kilkenny and embark on the one of the most famous and beautiful of Ireland's 32 counties, Co. Kerry, known as 'The Kingdom'. On route, we will visit the famous Blarney Castle to gain the 'Gift of the Gab'** as according to Irish folklore, anyone who kisses the stone receives the ability to speak with eloquence, or "The Gift of the Gab. Explore the beautiful grounds and once you have walked up an appetite for shopping, head inside the "Blarney Woolen Mills" - 30,000 square feet of retail space within one of Ireland's oldest and most authentic woolen mills.



After, we will travel to the beautiful town of Killarney to check in and enjoy the rest of the evening in Killarney together. **Later, meet for dinner** and enjoy a quiet drink in a town famous for its nightlife.

Dinner & Overnight: The Lake Hotel, Killarney

Aug 19th: Local Sights & Sounds of Kerry

Once you have had your breakfast, we will set out to explore Kerry, famed to contain some of Ireland's most iconic scenery. **Today we will visit the Ring of Kerry**, a majestic circular loop that pairs overwhelming natural beauty with immersive heritage attractions, the Ring of

Kerry is a jewel in the Kingdom of Kerry's crown. Along this route you will pass through vast glacial valleys (Moll's Gap) and see the Skellig Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



We will enjoy a sheep-dog demonstrations, which are one of the most unusual – and popular – sights on the Ring of Kerry. A local farmer will introduce you to his sheep dogs and give you a fascinating demonstration of how sheep dogs are used to bring in the sheep on real farms. Later, we will return to our Killarney Hotel to enjoy the remainder of the evening as you wish. Killarney has no shortage of establishments to stop for a pint and live entertainment at night. So whether you are looking for a sing-along Killarney style, a good trad session or just a quiet pint, you are sure to find it here!

Overnight: The Lake Hotel, Killarney

Aug 20th: The Mighty Cliffs

Once breakfast is over, **we will bid Killarney farewell in search of new adventures in eccentric Galway.** Free spirited, artistic and bohemian, Galway has an ambience all of its own. From narrow streets alive with activity and Irish culture to amazing landscapes and seascapes – Galway, known as ‘The City of Tribes’ after the 14 family tribes that founded it, has something for everyone to enjoy.



Before we reach Galway, **we will take the ferry across the River Shannon and visit the the mighty Cliffs of Moher** which stand over 700 feet high at the highest point and range for over 5 miles over the Atlantic Ocean. Spectacular views are in abundance at this iconic attraction, on a clear day you can see the Aran Islands and Galway Bay as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head to the South.

Later, we will reach Galway to enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour to take in all of the interesting areas of the city. We will then check in and **get ready to share dinner together in Galway**, a vibrant place, full of life and character in its people!

Dinner & Overnight: The Harbour Hotel, Galway

Aug 21st: The Wildest West – Connemara

Fill up on your Irish Breakfast this morning before we head out and **tour “The Wild West of Ireland” Connemara**, a wild region of bog land, pristine lakes and mountains which is sparsely populated and the landscape much more open. Because the area is so remote, the Irish language and traditions have survived here and Irish is the first tongue of many of the

inhabitants. **We will also visit Kylemore Abbey**, a Benedictine monastery founded in 1920 on the grounds of Kylemore Castle. The dramatic landscape and iconic image of a gothic castle reflected in a Connemara Lake has made Kylemore Abbey world-famous and it is now the largest tourist attraction in the west of Ireland.



Following this, enjoy the remainder of your day in Galway as you please. Later, enjoy one of Galway's vibrant eating and drinking venues for some hearty local fare and warm Irish hospitality. **Overnight: The Harbour Hotel, Galway**

Aug 22nd: Relax & Recovery in Maynooth

After a hearty breakfast this morning, we will **bid Galway farewell as we embark on a luxurious stay in Carton House in Maynooth, Co. Kildare**, famed for its grazing farmlands and horse industry.

On our way to Maynooth, we will take an intriguing detour via Kilbeggan Distillery in Co. Westmeath, the home of traditional Irish whiskey & the oldest licensed distillery in Ireland. Our guided tour today will reveal real artisanal Irish whiskey distilling at its finest where you can hear, smell and taste Kilbeggan Irish whiskey as it is made today.

Following this, **we will arrive and check in to Carton House**, a beautifully restored historic mansion in Kildare which has been discreetly converted in to a modern luxury destination stay - the first of its kind in Ireland. **Enjoy your surroundings before meeting later to share a farewell dinner together.** Reflect on the memories, friendships and magic created during your stay in Ireland and toast to a successful trip in the Emerald Isle.



Dinner & Overnight: Carton House, Kildare

Aug 23rd: Homeward Bound...

Pack your bags as we head for Dublin Airport where you will board your flight for home. Carry on your photos and memories and bring a bit of the Emerald Isle home with you. 'The Land of One Hundred Thousand Welcomes' will be expecting you again soon.