Irish Experience



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Day 1 | Welcome to Ireland



Embrace your playful side and discover the allure of the lively Irish capital - a small city with a lot of heart and yours to explore before meeting your Travel Director and fellow travellers this afternoon for a sightseeing tour with your Local Specialist. See the stately Georgian Squares and Trinity College before enjoying a Welcome Reception this evening at St. Patrick's Cathedral, which has played an integral role in Ireland's history for over eight centuries. As you get to know your travel companions in the surrounds of this incredibly moving place which is a real treasure of Ireland, you'll learn how the cathedral was built in honour of Ireland's patron saint and is one of the few buildings of medieval Dublin still left standing.

The excitement will build this evening over drinks, good food and great company as your Travel Director gives you a taste of what's to come.

Meals: Welcome Reception

Hotel: Mespil

Day 2 | Journey to Colourful Belfast



Leaving the cosmopolitan streets of Dublin behind, we travel to Northern Ireland and the bustling city of Belfast, where you will have some free time to enjoy a spud for lunch or perhaps an Irish stew. Later, we meet our Local Specialist 'Cabbie' for an insider view of the city's living history during a journey through its vibrant streets in a real taxi. We spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure, or perhaps join an Optional Experience.

Meals: Breakfast **Hotel:** AC by Marriott

Optional Experiences:

Belfast Walk with Fish and Chips - What better way to soak up the atmosphere of this lively city than to join a Local Specialist for a stroll through its hidden side streets? We'll have an included drink in a historic pub and continue to a local restaurant for a quintessentially traditional meal; fish and chips. Adult: 41.00 GBP

Day 3 | Venture to the Giant's Causeway and on to Londonderry



Dive Into Culture during a visit to the award-winning Titanic Belfast Experience. Gain insights into the tragic story of the Titanic and its passengers who lost their lives in the icy Atlantic. We leave the city behind us, travelling along the beautiful Antrim coast road to the Giant's Causeway for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience as we walk in the footsteps of Finn MacCool. Our visit will help to conserve this iconic natural landmark. Take some time to admire the natural spectacle of 40,000 interlocking basalt columns before continuing to Derry/Londonderry, our home for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: City

Optional Experiences:

Dinner and Drinks in Londonderry - Join us and the the rest of the group for a cosy and relaxing evening of dinner and a drink in a locally-loved restaurant.

Adult: 47.00 GBP

Day 4 | Discover Derry/Londonderry's Past



Join your Local Specialist for a walk along the 17thcentury city walls and see the formerly turbulent Bogside neighbourhood, with its street murals depicting the history of the 'Troubles'. Spend a free afternoon walking along the pretty Foyle River or consider joining an Optional Experience to Inishowen Peninsula, with its rich history. This evening we dine at our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: City

Optional Experiences:

Experience the Inishowen Peninsula - Enjoy a guided visit to the Inishowen Peninsula. This spectacular circuit will take you on a journey to the most north-western tip of Ireland. Here you'll visit Grianan Aileach, a circle stone fort which was the royal seat of the O'Neill clan, situated amongst spectacular views. Adult: 21.00 GBP

Day 5 | Onwards to Scenic Galway



We journey through the lush countryside to Belleek, where we'll Dive Into Culture and witness talented pottery craftsmen create the exquisite collectables that have graced homes since the mid-19th century. Arrive in Galway later, where we will stay for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Maldron Oranmore/Maldron Sandy Road

Optional Experiences:

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Trad on the Prom - The best in Irish dancing from the most-awarded performers in Ireland. Combined with some of Ireland's best musical talent, this show is truly "can't miss". Adult: 37.00 EUR

Galway Castle Banquet - Join us on a drive to a Galway Castle where you'll begin your evening of medieval entertainment. This will be accompanied by a delicious dinner where wine will flow, and you'll be treated to songs and the marvellous Irish art of story-telling. Please Note: this Optional Experience may operate on an alternative day, depending on availability.

Adult: 77.00 EUR

Day 6 | Connemara Excursion



The rugged beauty of Connemara was captured in the film 'The Quiet Man' with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. Its loughs and mountains are yours to explore today during a scenic drive. We arrive at Kylemore Abbey later to visit the country's most romantic castle and ramble through the hidden nooks of its Victorian walled garden. Returning to Galway, we enjoy some free time to explore its imposing stone Cathedral or stroll through Eyre Square, which John F. Kennedy visited in 1963.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Maldron Oranmore

Day 7 | Explore the Cliffs of Moher and Killarney



See the imposing UNESCO-listed Cliffs of Moher rising over 650 feet (200 m) above the pounding Atlantic and scan the horizon all the way to the Aran Islands to get the full view of the irresistible beauty of this special place. You'll have an opportunity to visit the 'Atlantic Edge' exhibition which will bring to life this extraordinary natural phenomenon in a way that only the wildlife of the area get to see.

Enchanted by the wild landscapes, you'll continue along the Wild Atlantic Way to Connect With Locals and meet local horticulturalist, Oonagh, who'll teach you how to forage before our Be My Guest visit to the Barrtra Seafood restaurant. Oonagh will reveal the importance of sustainable food experiences and you'll learn how everything on your plate has been bought locally, perhaps inspired to buy local produce when you return home.

The spectacular views of this dramatic coastline continue before you board a ferry across the tranquil Shannon Estuary river. Then, continue through County Kerry to your hotel in Killarney, where you'll have an evening at leisure or join in the craic at an optional Irish ceilidh.

Meals: Breakfast, Be My Guest

Hotel: Killarney Towers

Optional Experiences:

Irish Ceilidh Evening - The Irish Ceilidh epitomises how music and dance were enjoyed in rural Ireland, especially on festive occasions. The craic - welcoming, jolly, fun and informal - is accompanied with plenty of food and drink. There's no more enjoyable way to understand Irish culture. Adult: 70.00 EUR

Day 8 | A Day on the Ring of Kerry



The soul-stirring landscapes of Iveragh Peninsula provide a mesmerising backdrop for our scenic coastal drive around the Ring of Kerry – an unimaginably beautiful natural setting. En route we will see Killorglin, famous for its annual 'Puck Fair', as well as Daniel O'Connell's Cahirciveen, the fishing village of Waterville, the Black Valley and Moll's Gap.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner **Hotel:** Killarney Towers

Optional Experiences:

Experience a Jaunting Cart Ride - Enjoy a traditional pony and trap ride through the beautiful Bourn-Vincent National Park. During your journey, your Local Specialist will share fascinating anecdotes about the area and Ireland. Adult: 24.00 EUR

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Kerry Farm Experience - Step back into the past, on a traditional Kerry Farm of the 1930's. We'll meet a local farmer who will show us around the farm yard and tell of times gone by. Enjoy mountain views of the Ring of Kerry as he demonstrates his skills at herding sheep with border collies. Adult: **22.00 EUR**

Visit Muckross House and its Gardens - Come with us to Muckross House and its beautiful gardens. With a backdrop of oak-clad mountains, enjoy taking in the towering azaleas and rhododendrons, alongside the shores of the lake. The 19th-century house contains some wonderful examples of furniture and paintings, including a portrait of King James VI, for whom Shakespeare wrote Macbeth. Adult: **21.00 EUR**

Day 9 | Off to Blarney, Waterford and Kilkenny



Today you might acquire the 'gift of the gab', bending over backwards to kiss the Blarney Stone before we travel to Waterford. Admire the delicate creations of fine crystal during a visit to the House of Waterford Crystal where we will Dive Into Culture and witness a demonstration by master craftsmen. This evening, we arrive in Kilkenny with its imposing 12th-century castle, once the seat of the Butlers of Ormonde.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Kilkenny

Optional Experiences:

An Afternoon of Irish Fun and Music (Craic agus Ceol) - Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the ancient sport of hurling at a local pub. Moving outside, you'll enjoy a live demonstration by village locals and even have a chance to try your hand at this game, said to be the oldest and fastest field sport in the world. Later, live music and a drink will greet you on returning to the pub. Adult: **29.00 EUR**

Day 10 | Through County Wicklow's Countryside to Dublin



After a morning exploration of Kilkenny, we depart for New Ross where we'll see the monument to John F. Kennedy, who visited his ancestral family hometown in 1963. Dive Into Culture and gain insights into the tragic plight of Irish emigrants during the potato famine of the 1800s on our visit to the nearby three-masted Dunbrody Famine Ship. Journey through the lush Irish countryside of County Wicklow, the 'Garden of Ireland', and back to Dublin where you'll spend your final evening with travel companions sharing stories of your memorable journey through Ireland at a Farewell Dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Hotel: Sandymount/Clayton Cardiff Lane

Day 11 | Farewell Dublin



It's time to say a fond farewell to Ireland and newfound friends as you prepare to end your wonderful Irish experience. Find out more about your free airport transfer at trafalgar.com/freetransfers.

Meals: Breakfast