

8 Day Chauffeur Driven Tour Around the Emerald Isle

Suggested Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1: Depart USA

Day 2: Arrive in Ireland

Arrive at the airport and take your private transfer to Dublin city center Hotel. Rooms may not be ready, but you could enjoy breakfast and then head out to explore the city. You may take a self-guided walking tour around Dublin city exploring some of Dublin's famous attractions, engage you with the lively history of the city and point out some of the best local restaurants. You can also begin the day with your 2-day Hop on Hop off Tour pass. There are around 772 pubs in Dublin, so you won't have a hard time finding somewhere to have a jar. (That's Dublin slang for a pint!). The city is divided into north and south by the River Liffey. Temple Bar, which is famously associated with Dublin's nightlife, is located right by the river on the south side. Here, you'll find lots of pubs and restaurants lining the cobbled streets. This area is particularly popular with tourists, so many of them serve the likes of Irish coffee and Guinness stew.



Overnight: Dublin – 4 Star Hotel

Day 3: Day in Dublin extended sight-seeing.

Continue with your Hop on Hop off Tour pass to get around to all the sites at your leisure. A couple of the must-see sites:

- Guinness Storehouse
- St Patrick's Cathedral
- Trinity College Book of Kells
 - Croke Park
 - Dublin Zoo
- Leprechaun Museum

Overnight: Dublin – 4 Star Hotel

Day 4: Dublin - Kilkenny- Ireland's Medieval City - Port Town of Kinsale

Today is the first day with your Driver-Guide who will spend the next 4 days with you. He will meet you in the lobby of the hotel, then you head off on your journey south.

Our first suggested stop is Kilkenny where you can visit Kilkenny Castle, once seat of the Butler family's



magnificent estate. After being fully restored to its original grandeur, the ornamental gardens and ornate interior has made Kilkenny Castle one of the most visited tourist sites in all of Ireland.

We continue, this afternoon to the picturesque yachting harbour of Kinsale which is one of many colourful gems strung along the coastline of County Cork. Narrow, winding streets lined with galleries and gift shops, lively bars and superb restaurants, and a handsome natural harbour filled with yachts and guarded by a huge 17th-century fortress make it an engrossing place to spend a day or two.

Overnight: Kinsale – 4 Star Hotel

Day 5: Cork City & Cobh

This morning, after breakfast you can take a tour of Cork City. The city was originally a monastic settlement founded by Saint Finbar in the 6th century. It is steeped in history and has been an important trading center over the years. Corkonians often refer to the city as the “real capital” in reference to the city’s role as the center of the anti-treaty forces during the Irish Civil War.

In the afternoon, a visit to the historic port town of Cobh is highly recommended. It is from this town that over 2.5 million Irish people emigrated. Many would have attended mass at the beautiful Cathedral overlooking the port prior to their departure. Cobh was also the last port from which the Titanic left on April 11th, 1912. You can enjoy a visit to the Cobh Heritage Museum or explore Titanic Experience before returning to Kinsale to celebrate a very special birthday.

Overnight: Kinsale – 4 Star Hotel



Day 6: Kinsale – Beara Peninsula - Killarney



Bid farewell to Kinsale and start the journey to Killarney. The route I would suggest is through West Cork one of Ireland’s premier tourist regions. It stretches from Kinsale in the east to the rugged ***Beara peninsula*** at its western edge. Some people have described West Cork as *Ireland in miniature*.

It has fertile farmland around Bandon that gives way to a more upland landscape as you move further west. It has an Irish-speaking *Gaeltacht* region in Cape Clear but was also home to many of Ireland’s famous writers.

The area is regarded as the epicenter of the Irish potato famine, particularly around Skibbereen. Stop in ***Bantry for lunch*** before continuing to ***Killarney*** where we check into the beautiful Lake Hotel for the next two nights.

Overnight: Killarney- 4 Star Hotel

Day 7: Optional Day Tours on the Ring of Kerry or Dingle Peninsula



Today you can enjoy some free time in Killarney or opt to take one of the local day tours.

The Ring of Kerry is a scenic drive around the Iveragh Peninsula in southwest Ireland’s County Kerry. Its 179km-long, circular route takes in rugged and verdant coastal landscapes and rural seaside villages. Skellig Michael, a rocky island with an abandoned 7th-century Christian monastery, is a major destination point, with several boats from Portmagee making the 12km crossing during the warmer months.

OR

The [Dingle Peninsula](#), on Ireland's southwest Atlantic coast, is ringed by sandy beaches and craggy cliffs. Inland are rolling hills and mountains, including 952m Mount Brandon. The region's an officially recognized bastion of Irish language and culture. Dunmore Head, mainland Ireland's easternmost point, has views of the Blasket Islands, famous for Irish-language memoirs documenting rural life in the 1800s and 1900s. Stop in at the [Blasket Visitor Center](#). You will also hear a lot about the Star Wars movies that were filmed here. Back in Dingle town you can take a ferry out into the bay, Kayak or just hang out with the locals for a pint or two.



Overnight: Killarney- 4 Star Hotel

Day 8: Killarney – Cliffs of Moher - Galway

After breakfast, your driver will meet you in the lobby of the hotel. We travel north the vibrant city of Galway. You may want to stop and visit the iconic Cliffs of Moher. Perhaps head to the lively town of Doolin for some lunch. You arrive into Galway City, a very walkable and lively place. Check into your hotel and head out to explore.



The Cliffs are over 700 feet high at the highest point and range for over 5 miles over the Atlantic Ocean. O'Brien's Tower stands proudly on a headland of the majestic Cliffs. On a clear day you can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head to the South. The Cliffs are home to the Puffin Bird and many other bird species, which you will see a lot about in the interpretation center.

Later that evening, you can explore Galway City which is known for its association with the Irish language, music, song and dancing traditions- sometimes referred to as the 'Bilingual Capital of Ireland'. Your Driver will say farewell at this time.



Day 9: Suggested day trip options to Connemara or the Aran Islands

After breakfast today you can relax and enjoy Galway where there is always something happening. Alternatively, you have couple of great day trip options with the local tour company [Lally Tours](#)



Aran Islands – A highlight of the Wild Atlantic Way with its Cliffs and spectacular coastal views is “**The Aran Islands**” (Islands of Saints and Scholars) located just off Galway in the Atlantic. You will have the opportunity to try out your new Irish speaking skills because locals speak Irish as well as English. The islands are scattered with Celtic churches of historical importance and on Inis Mor you can visit the spectacular **Fort of Dun Aonghasa**.

Connemara - visit Connemara, a unique and very special part of County Galway. Once home to over 2 million Irish speaking people, it still retains its regional heritage as you will discover while we ramble around its lakes, mountains and bog lands. We visit the picturesque Kylemore Abbey, the home of the Benedictine nuns which stands at the edge of a lake surrounded by woodlands. Kylemore Abbey's most famous feature is its miniature cathedral, known locally as the Gothic church. You can also visit the Victorian Walled Garden.



We then travel back to Galway where tonight you are free to explore the city. Stroll down the cobblestone streets lined with warm cozy pubs, lots of music, unique shops, restaurants and cafes and most importantly enjoy your last night in Ireland!

Overnight: Galway- 4 Star Hotel

Day 9: Depart Ireland and head back to the US!

Pack your bags as we head for the 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 Welcomes' will be expecting you again!

