

Northern Ireland Chauffeur Driven Tour 2023

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1: Heading to the Emerald Isle

Today we start our journey by boarding our transatlantic flight to Ireland.

Day 2: Céad Míle Fáilte – Welcome to Ireland!

This morning we arrive at Dublin airport. After going through Passport Control, collect your bags and head out into the arrivals area where your very friendly Irish Tour Director will meet you. Once aboard the coach head for Belfast City, the famous transformed capital city of Northern Ireland. Known in equal parts for the birthplace of the Titanic, the notorious history of Northern Ireland and as one of today's most exciting cities to visit throughout Ireland, the UK and the world. You will check-in to your hotel and you can have dinner here this evening.



Overnight : Belfast – 4 Star Hotel

Day 3: Exploring Belfast City

This morning after a hearty Irish breakfast, you can set out on a *panoramic sightseeing tour* of this fascinating city, where the peace process has brought a revival of optimism to this city rich in Victorian elegance and blossoming with culture. Drive through West Belfast's Protestant neighborhood of Shankill Road and the Catholic neighborhood of Falls Road, where large vivid murals painted on the sides of buildings express the feelings that still run deep on both sides. Though the names of these areas were much in the news during 'The Troubles' the gate in the Peace



Wall between them now stands open.

A visit to the *Titanic Belfast* is highly recommended, a state-of-the-art interactive museum that provides an unforgettable visitor experience. It tells the story of RMS Titanic, from her conception and launch into the River Lagan in 1911, to the tragic end of her maiden voyage a year later. It was here at Titanic Quarter (the former Queen's Island) in Belfast Harbor, the ship was built. Enjoy the exhibits at your own pace. You are free to enjoy dinner on your own tonight.

Overnight: Belfast – 4 Star Hotel

Day 4: Giant's Causeway and The Glens of Antrim



This morning after breakfast depart the hotel and make our way to Derry. On route, you can stop at the ***Giant's Causeway***, an amazing geologic formation basalt stone – some as tall as 130 feet, and mostly hexagonal in shape. As Northern Ireland's Premiere landmark, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, you'll be free to decide for yourself whether the Causeway is a result of accelerated

cooling of lava outflows 60 million years ago. Or is it the work of the legendary Irish giant, Finn MacCool, in his attempts to a) woo a distant lady giant, or b) meet a Scottish giant in battle to determine who was the stronger giant?

Arrive in Derry and check in to your hotel where you will be staying for the next two nights. This evening you can enjoy a dinner together at a restaurant of your choice.

Overnight: Derry – 4 Star Hotel

Day 5: Traveling to Northern Ireland



This morning after a leisurely breakfast, take a guided walk around the Walls of Derry – revealing a splendid city crammed full of history, heritage, interest and a vibrant cultural scene. This is the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland and one of the finest examples of Walled Cities in Europe. The Walls were built during the period of 1613-1618 as defenses for early 17th century settlers from

England and Scotland. Then this afternoon you can visit the ***Inishowen Peninsula*** at Malin Head, the most northerly point on the island of Ireland, and the start/end point of the Wild Atlantic Way coastal touring route.

This evening you can enjoy dinner together at ***Soda & Starch*** in the Craft Village. The rationale behind Soda & Starch was to recreate an eatery in the style of an Irish kitchen and pantry. And the location, right in the heart of Derry's Craft Village, oozes character, warmth and hospitality creating the perfect backdrop for this restaurant's traditional culinary experience. Following



dinner, we have the ability to learn how to make an Irish coffee, then get your dancing shoes on as they tend to entertain visitors with some lively traditional Irish music.

Overnight: Mayo – 4 Star Hotel

Day 6: On to the West



This morning after enjoying a hearty Irish breakfast you will check out of the hotel and travel across the border to County Mayo. Along the way you can stop at ***The Ulster American Folk Park***, and immerse yourselves in the story of the brave emigrants who made the journey across the Atlantic to America, hundreds of years ago. We can then continue our journey with our second stop today being

the quaint village of Belleek where we will visit the center, home to Ireland's oldest working fine china pottery. Following this we will arrive at our next hotel where you will check-in and you can sit to a group dinner together that evening.

Overnight: Mayo – 4 Star Hotel

Day 7: A trip to Knock and Anniversary Party

This morning after enjoying a delicious breakfast board your coach and travel to ***Knock***, – Ireland's National Marian Shrine and the site of the Apparition in 1879. The Story of Knock began on Thursday evening of the 21st of August 1879, Our Lady, St Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of the church of Knock, County Mayo. There were 15 official witnesses to the apparition young and old who watched and prayed for 2 hours in the pouring rain.

After the morning in Knock you can return to your hotel and freshen up before heading for dinner together this evening.

Overnight: Mayo- 4 Star Hotel

Day 8: Mayo to Dublin

After an Irish breakfast this morning we will board the coach and depart for Dublin. On route we can stop and take a ***cruise on the beautiful River Shannon***. Departing from the quay side of Carrick-On-Shannon, dubbed one of Ireland's premier beauty spots, sit back and relax with tea and scones and revel in the beauty of Ireland's finest river. After we will continue our journey and check-in to our Dublin Hotel. That evening you can enjoy dinner together as a group and spend the night as you please.

Overnight: Dublin- 4 Star Hotel

Day 9: Dublin Sightseeing & Guinness

Enjoy breakfast this morning before possibly taking part in a Dublin City sightseeing tour that includes important points of interest such as Trinity College, the General Post Office (GPO), O'Connell Street, St. Patrick's Cathedral plus more. From here you can continue to the **Guinness Storehouse** to tour the seven stories and hear about the creation of Ireland's iconic drink. Guinness Storehouse is located in the heart of the Guinness Brewery at St James's Gate, Dublin. Housed in an old fermentation plant, now the seven-story visitor experience tells the story of Ireland's iconic drink and brings to life the heritage of Guinness from early days to growth as a global brand, known all around the world. After you are then free to spend the last night as you wish.



Overnight: Dublin – 4 Star Hotel

Day 10: Homeward Bound

Pack your bags and head for Dublin Airport where you will board your flight back to the States. Carry on your photos and memories and bring a wee bit of the Emerald Isle home with you. And remember, 'The Land of One Hundred Welcomes' will be expecting you back soon....