



Classic Ireland

Céad Míle Fáilte  A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!

Join TRIPS for a fun-filled tour of the Emerald Isle...a land of breathtaking scenery and warm and friendly people! From the beautiful capital city of Dublin to Waterford, home of the famous crystal, you will be visiting a country that delights travelers over and over again. Tour wonderful ancient castles and spend your first night in Ireland in a castle that dates to 1827! Of course a stop at Blarney Castle is planned where you can kiss the Blarney Stone! While you are being charmed by the wit and music of Ireland, you'll also be spellbound by the glorious beauty of this island country. The verdant fields dotted with fluffy white sheep, the rugged cliffs sloping down to the pounding surf — Ireland truly has it all! We invite you to join us and see the real Ireland, complete with pub dinners, evenings of Irish entertainment, and a sightseeing program featuring Ireland's most charming and historic sites.

Day 1

Depart the United States and enjoy your overnight flight to Europe.

Day 2

Welcome to **Dublin**, a city of remarkable contrasts and contradictions! Traditional old pubs complete with a “snug” stand next to modern bars of pale wood and aluminum and the aroma of freshly brewed coffee mingles with the distinct smell of hops from the Guinness brewery. Upon your arrival in Dublin, you'll be met by your private driver/guide who will assist you with the transfer to your castle hotel, **yes tonight you stay in a genuine Irish castle!** The remainder of the day is at leisure and you may opt to explore the magnificent grounds of “your” castle. This evening, you are invited to a reception where you will **enjoy music played by an acclaimed Irish harpist**, as you savor your welcome-to-Ireland drink and Irish stew - an exclusive TRIPS treat.

Overnight: Dublin

(Irish coffee, Irish stew and Irish harpist)

Day 3

Drive south to **Kilkenny** today, one of the most medieval cities in Ireland, for a guided tour of **Kilkenny Castle**. This was the residence of the powerful Butler family for almost 600 years beginning when the 3rd Earl of Ormonde purchased it in 1391. In 1967, the 6th Marquess of Ormonde presented this magnificent castle to the people of Kilkenny for a token payment of £50. The Picture Gallery Wing is a delight and today is home to part of **Ireland's National Art** collection. Your next stop is the famous **Waterford Crystal Factory** where you will have time to watch crystal pieces being created as well as browse in the gift shop. You check into your hotel for the evening and then meet in the lobby for an exclusive **walking tour of Waterford**. The history of the region comes alive as your storyteller/guide spins tales of the scandals and drama of bygone days. Your tour includes national monuments, cathedrals, and a whole gallery of rogues, rascals and reprobates! This light-hearted mixture of history and hilarity has won numerous awards and you'll be laughing as you listen to your guide with his delightful Irish brogue! Afterward, enjoy dinner in the hotel dining room.

Overnight: Waterford

(B/D)

Day 4

Today, travel along the scenic south coast to **Cobh**, the last port of call of the ill-fated “Titanic.” There is time to tour the interesting **Cobh Heritage Centre**, which traces the history of emigration from Ireland to the United States. Continue on to Blarney, where you can climb the steps of fabled **Blarney Castle** to kiss the famous “Stone of Eloquence.” Built over 600 years ago, it's one of Ireland's greatest treasures! There is time to enjoy the beautiful gardens of the magical castle with 60 acres of avenues, waterways and arboretums! You will then have an opportunity to shop at the **Blarney Woolen Mills** for quality Irish products. Here, you will see almost every product made in Ireland. From fine Irish crystal to beautiful porcelain from Belleck, you are sure to find just the right gift for that special someone back home. Continue on to **Killarney** and check into your hotel. This evening, dinner is served at the hotel.

Overnight: Killarney

(B/D)

Day 5

Today you embark on Ireland's most popular scenic drive — the **Ring of Kerry**. This full day tour will reveal constantly changing vistas of mountains, beaches, and cliffs as you travel through the villages of Waterville and Sneem with plenty of stops for photos along the way. Visitors have been drawn here since Victorian times and as you travel the winding coastal road you'll understand why. This mountainous, lake-splattered region is undeniably scenic and you won't tire of the eternal beauty of the Irish landscape! After a full day marveling at shades of green, return to your hotel with some time on your own. This evening, your TRIPS guide will take you to

visit one of Killarney's famous "singing" pubs, where you will experience traditional Irish music. Most tours will take you to a "touristy" venue, but tonight you will experience a real neighborhood pub, complete with a peat fire and local musicians who gather for the sheer love of playing their ancestral songs. This is a delightful way to connect with the Irish people on their own turf, while getting a taste of authentic Irish culture!

Overnight: Killarney

(B)

Day 6

After a full Irish breakfast, you visit the village of **Adare**. Snuggled in a wooded and lush countryside setting, Adare is widely regarded as being Ireland's prettiest and most picturesque village. Keep your camera handy for taking photographs of some of the charming **thatched cottages** along the main street. As a special treat today, you will **visit an Irish home** and enjoy tea and scones with an Irish family. Later this afternoon, continue through Limerick before checking in to your hotel in **Bunratty**. You might choose to visit nearby **Bunratty Folk Park** to experience a living reconstruction of the homes and environment of Ireland found over a century ago. Set on 26 acres, the impressive park features more than 30 buildings in a living village and rural setting. This evening, enjoy a special pub dinner with wonderful entertainment!

Overnight: Bunratty

(B/D)

Day 7

After breakfast, you drive to the coast of County Clare to view the **Cliffs of Moher**, Ireland's most visited natural attraction. Rising 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, there is ample time to enjoy a stroll along the cliffs as well as do a bit of shopping in the gift shop. After enjoying lunch on your own, continue to **The Burren**. This area is truly unique and unlike any other place in all of Ireland as there are no bogs and few pastures. Instead, see huge expanses of limestone remarkably similar to a moonscape! After a brief stop, continue along part of scenic **Galway Bay** into Galway City. Today you also tour part of Connemara, a wild scenic moorland area just west of the city, and visit the **Connemara Marble Factory**, home of the famous green marble. You will be able to observe the craftsmen at work producing their beautiful marble jewelry in gold and silver - often featuring the shamrock, harp or Celtic cross. You will dine in the hotel this evening.

Overnight: Galway

(B/D)

Day 8

Today, return to **Dublin** traveling through rich farmland and stopping along the way for lunch. On arrival, enjoy a city sightseeing tour of this elegant and artistic city dotted with spacious Georgian squares and row houses with brightly painted doors. You'll see the magnificent Bank of Ireland building (the former Parliament House) and Leinster House, which today accommodate both houses of the Republic's Parliament. The afternoon is free for shopping along the pedestrianized **Grafton Street** or **Henry Street** or visiting some of the many popular and friendly pubs. Tonight features a fun-filled, farewell evening at an area tavern, complete with dinner and Irish Shindig entertainment — a fitting finale to a wonderful tour of the Emerald Isle!

Overnight: Dublin

(B/D)

Day 9

After breakfast, you depart for the airport and your flight back to the United States, with arrival on the same day. **The wonderful memories of your tour of Classic Ireland will last a lifetime!**

(B)

Inclusions

- Round trip international airfare to Ireland (checked baggage fee is not included)
- 7 nights accommodations with private bath, including one night in an authentic Irish castle
- 7 full Irish breakfasts
- 5 dinners, including a special farewell dinner with entertainment
- Welcome-to-Ireland drink and Irish stew with Irish harpist as entertainment
- Visit to Blarney Castle, Waterford Crystal Factory, Connemara Marble Factory, Kilkenny Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Ring of Kerry, Cobh Heritage Center and much more!
- Special Waterford City walking tour
- Tea and scones with an Irish family
- Private transport by deluxe motor coach throughout the itinerary
- Services of a professional Irish driver/guide
- All admissions as listed in the detailed itinerary
- Porterage of 1 full sized suitcase per person
- All airline and hotel taxes and surcharges

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