



## Itinerary

Prepared for: Irelands Ancient East Tour

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Proposal number: 001

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# EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

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**Arrive and Depart from Dublin Airport**

### **Day 1 - Dublin City Day Tour**

Touring Trinity College, St Patricks Cathedral, National Museum of Archaeological & History, National Gallery of Ireland & Kilmainham Gaol

### **Day 2 - South Dublin Day Tour**

Touring Dun Laoighaire, Dalkey, Killiney & Powerscourt House and Gardens

### **Day 3 - Touring Newgrange and Trim & Malahide Castles**

Touring Newgrange, Trim Castle, Malahide Castle & Howth Head

### **Day 4 - Touring Kilkenny, Glendalough & Wicklow Mountains**

Touring Wicklow Mountains, Sallys Gap, Glendalough, & Avoca Woolen Mills.

### **Day 5 - Whiskey & Brewery Road-trip, Kilbeggan, Tullamore, Jameson & Guinness Storehouse**

Touring Kilbeggan Distillery, Tullamore D.E.W. Distillery, Jameson Distillery and Guinness Storehouse.

### **Day 6 - Depart Dublin Airport**

## TRANSPORT

6 x Days Chauffeured Guided Tour & Transfers in Deluxe Mercedes Vehicle with leather trim, wifi and air con. Fuel, Tolls, Ferry crossings and driver/guide expenses all included. Your knowledgeable chauffeur will guide you to the best restaurants and local bars as well as informing you on all the historical facts and fables.

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## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation can be mixed and matched between 4 and 5 Star if need be.

### **4 STAR ACCOMMODATION**

**5 x Nights @ O' Callaghan Hotels (Davenport, St. Stephens Green, Alexander or Mont Clare Hotels),** Dublin. O'Callaghan Hotels are all in excellent locations for both leisure and business travellers. Each hotel is distinctive and distinguished by excellence. Flexibility is at the heart of what we do to ensure you get the very best service from our team. Years of experience allow for extraordinary service. Get the real Irish experience through staying in a family-owned business that has been running the hotel business in Dublin for 25 years.

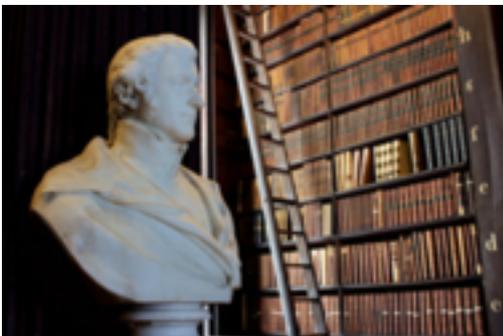
### **5 STAR ACCOMMODATION**

**5 x Nights @ The Merrion Hotel,** Dublin. The Merrion, located in the heart of Dublin city centre, is the capital's most luxurious five star hotel, and a proud member of The Leading Hotels of the World. The Merrion is home to the 2-star Michelin Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud, The Cellar Bar, The Garden Room and the intimate No. 23 Cocktail Bar and has the second largest art collection in Ireland outside of the National Gallery of Ireland.

## TOUR ITINERARY

### **Day 1 - Dublin City Day Tour**

Arrive at Dublin Airport on morning flight arrival to be greeted by your chauffeured tour guide at arrivals in Airport. After a quick freshening up embark on a tour of Dublin City including Trinity College, St Patricks Cathedral, National Museum of Archaeological & History, National Gallery of Ireland, Kilmainham Jail and Guinness Storehouse.



Tour of **Trinity College** which is widely considered to be the most prestigious University in Ireland and amongst the most elite in Europe. It houses The Library and the Book of Kells. Trinity College boasts the most extensive Library in Ireland which is a legal deposit Library for Ireland and The United Kingdom containing over 6.2 million printed volumes and significant quantities of manuscripts. The Book of Kells is the centrepiece of an exhibition which attracts over 500,000 visitors to Trinity College in Dublin City each year. It is Ireland's greatest cultural treasure and the world's most famous medieval manuscript. Written around the year 800 AD, the Book of Kells contains a richly decorated copy of the four gospels in a Latin text.

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Tour of the **National Museum of Ireland-Natural History**, on Merrion Street in Dublin, has galleries of animals from Ireland and overseas, as well as geological exhibits from a total collection of about two million scientific specimens. Just two years before Charles Darwin published his famous work, 'The Origin of Species', the Natural History Museum in Merrion Street was opened to the public for the first time in 1857. Now, as then, it educates and inspires, leaving us feeling small and humbled amidst the vast and wondrous diversity of life on display. Tour of the **National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology**, on Kildare Street in Dublin, which first opened its doors in 1890 and since then it has been filling in the blanks for us through its extensive archaeological collections. Take time at The Treasury which features outstanding examples of Celtic and Medieval art, such as the famous Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch and the Derrynaflan Hoard. Gaze in wonder at the finest collection of prehistoric gold artefacts in Europe, which is to be found in Or, Ireland's Gold. Ramble through prehistoric Ireland and experience life at the same time of the Vikings in Viking Age Ireland. Medieval Ireland 1150-1550, documents life in Ireland in the age of cathedrals, monasteries and castles.



Tour of **Saint Patrick's Cathedral** which has been part of Ireland's history for over 800 years and today is one of the most popular visitor attractions in Dublin. Built in honour of Ireland's patron saint between 1220 and 1260 Saint Patrick's Cathedral offers visitors a rich and compelling cultural experience and is one of the few buildings left from medieval Dublin. It is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland and is the largest Cathedral in the country. Guided tours of the Cathedral happen regularly throughout the day or a free App can be used for self-guide purpose.

Tour of the **National Gallery of Ireland** in Dublin boasts some 2,500 paintings and approximately 10,000 other works in different media including water-colours, drawings, prints and sculpture. Every major European school of painting is extensively represented. It also houses a renowned collection of Irish paintings, the majority of which are on permanent display. The gallery was established by an Act of Parliament in 1854 and first opened its doors to the public in January 1864.





Tour of **Kilmainham Gaol**, which is the Irish word for Jail. Before its closure in 1924, Dublin's Kilmainham Gaol held some of the most famous political and military leaders in Irish history such as Robert Emmet, Charles Stewart Parnell, the 1916 Rising leaders and Eamon de Valera. Leaders of the rebellions of 1798, 1803, 1848, 1867 and 1916 were detained here. The visit includes a guided tour and exhibition, it gives the visitor a dramatic and realistic insight into what it was like to have been confined in one of these forbidding bastions of punishment and correction between 1796 when it opened and 1924 when it closed.

**Accommodation:** O' Callaghan Hotels (Davenport, St Stephens Green, Alexander or Mont Clare Hotels), or Merrion Hotel

## **Day 2 - South Dublin Day Tour**

Touring Dun Laoighaire, Dalkey, Killiney, & Powerscourt House & Gardens

Travel along the scenic coastal drive of **Dun Laoighaire** to **Dalkey**, with stunning views of Dun Laoighaire Harbour, Bray Head, Dalkey Island and Sorrento Terrace. Travel to tour **Dalkey Castle** in Dublin which includes many living history actors who show visitors skills and cultural features from the 1500s in Ireland – such as an archer shooting a longbow, a cook making hedgehog pie and a barber surgeon offering haircuts.

Panoramic views of sea and mountains can be seen from the castle battlements. Visitors can also explore the early Christian church and graveyard, dedicated to St. Begnet. An interactive timeline in the Heritage Centre is available, beginning from early Christian through Viking, Medieval, Victorian and modern times in Dalkey (available in 12 languages). The area also features a Writers' Gallery with literary and creative connections to Joyce, Beckett, Bono and Maeve Binchy.

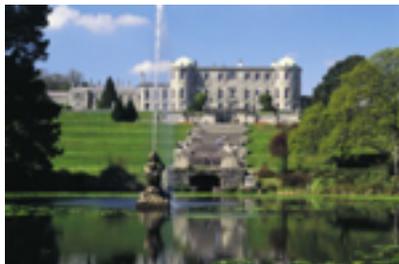


Travel to **Killiney** one of Dublin and Ireland's richest suburbs. View the homes at the most exclusive address in Dublin, Vico Road, including Ireland's most famous celebrities Enya, U2's Bono and The Edge. Killiney Hill and Dalkey Hill form part of Killiney Hill Park, a small public park overlooking both Dalkey and Killiney villages. The Park was dedicated to public use in 1887 by Prince Albert Victor of Wales, in memory of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, and called Victoria Hill. Killiney Hill is a popular destination for walkers and hikers availing of the spectacular views, over the surrounding areas.



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Travel through the picturesque village of Enniskerry to **Powerscourt House & Gardens** which is one of Europe's great treasures and Ireland's most famous estates. Gracing the Wicklow Mountains, 20 kilometres from Dublin city centre, Powerscourt is a heritage property with a surprising difference and a great family attraction. Powerscourt House was once a beautiful Palladian mansion, home to Lord Powerscourt and his



family for over 350 years. Powerscourt offers visitors a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, statues and ornamental lakes with secret hollows, rambling walks and beautiful walled gardens. The winding pathways feel like a secret garden at times, revealing new treasures such as fountains from Paris, gates from Venice and statues from Rome. There are hundreds of different types of plants, flowers and trees in the gardens. Tara's Palace, a museum for children is located in Powerscourt House and is a favourite among visitors.

**Accommodation:** O' Callaghan Hotels (Davenport, St Stephans Green, Alexander or Mont Clare Hotels), or Merrion Hotel

### **Day 3 - Touring Newgrange and Trim & Malahide Castles**

Touring Newgrange, Trim Castle, Malahide Castle & Howth Head.

Travel to The Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre in Donore, County Meath, which is an information hub for the thousands of visitors eager to explore Ireland's mysterious Neolithic monuments, **Newgrange**, Knowth and Dowth. An extensive exhibition includes a full scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange (a World Heritage site), as well as a model of one of the smaller tombs at Knowth. Located on the south side of the River Boyne, the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre is the only access point to Newgrange and Knowth, which lie north of the river. All tours of Newgrange start at the centre, before visitors cross the river via a footbridge and are brought by shuttle bus to the monuments.



Travel to **Trim Castle** which is Ireland's largest Anglo-Norman castle, set in the historically rich Boyne Valley. It was constructed over a thirty year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter as the home of the Lordship of Meath. Trim Castle is a stunning Norman castle on the south bank of the River Boyne in Trim. The largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland, it was constructed in Trim over a thirty-year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter. Hugh de Lacy was granted the liberty of Meath by King Henry II in 1172 in an attempt to curb the expansionist policies of Richard de Clare (Strongbow). Construction of the massive three storied keep, the central stronghold of the castle, was begun circa 1176 on the



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site of an earlier wooden fortress. This massive twenty sided tower, which is cruciform in shape, was protected by a ditch, curtain wall and moat.

Travel to **Malahide Castle**, which is set on 250 acres of park land in the pretty seaside town of Malahide, was both a fortress and a private home for nearly 800 years and is an interesting mix of architectural styles. A feature of Demense is the Talbot Botanic Garden. The Talbot family lived here from 1185 to 1973, when the last Talbot died. The house is furnished with beautiful period furniture together with an extensive collection of Irish portrait paintings, mainly from the National Gallery. The history of the Talbot family is recorded in the Great Hall, where portraits of generations of the family tell their own story of Ireland's stormy history. Many additions



and alterations have been made to this romantic and beautiful structure, but the contours of the surrounding parklands have changed little in 800 years, retaining a sense of the past. A major feature of Malahide Castle Demesne is the beautiful Talbot Botanic Gardens. The gardens, as they exist today, were largely created by Lord Milo Talbot between 1948 and 1973. Within the visitor centre in the courtyard, an interpretation & exhibition area tells visitors the story of the walled gardens as seen through the eyes of 'Lord Milo Talbot', the creator of the gardens and grounds as seen today.

Travel up the road to **Howth Head**, a peninsula 15km northeast of Dublin City, that has been immortalised in James Joyce's Ulysses. Howth is a bustling village that offers visitors a myriad of attractions – such as Lambay Island, Ireland's Eye, Howth Castle, The National Transport Museum, the Martello Tower and the Baily Lighthouse. Wildlife enthusiasts will adore this area, particularly Ireland's Eye and its bird sanctuary which boasts guillemots, razorbills, fulmars, gulls and gannets. If you're lucky, you may even see grey seals diving for fish just offshore. There is an option of four different walking loops to suit all levels that take in stunning views from the magnificent clifftop walk while being overwhelmed by the heady scent of coconut from the bright yellow gorse on the heath.



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## **Day 4 - Touring Glendalough & Wicklow Mountains**

Touring Wicklow Mountains, Sallys Gap, Glendalough, Avoca Woolen Mills & Kennedy Ancestral Home.

Travel to **Sallys Gap** which is one of the two east to west passes across the **Wicklow Mountains**. Passing over the Luggula Estate and over Lough Tay and Lough Dan, the Sally Gap offers spectacular views of the Wicklow mountains. The Wicklow Mountains National Park, one of the six national parks in Ireland. The mountains are the highest area of upland in Ireland and are home to some of the highest peaks in the country. The central spine of the Wicklow Mountains is built on a granite base that runs in a line of fine peaks. Otherwise gentle slopes are greatly diversified by expansive corries gouged out of the flanks of the higher summits. South of the Lugnaquilla the range descends into lower, forested hills. Special features in the area to the east of the spine are the glacial valleys that penetrate the mountain range. These valleys contain spectacular waterfalls, stern corries and remnants of primeval woods that once covered most of Ireland.



Travel onwards to **Glendalough** Visitor Centre is dedicated to showcasing the Glendalough monastic site, one of Ireland's most famous tourist attractions. Positioned in a glaciated valley with two lakes, the Glendalough



monastic site is a fascinating early Christian settlement in a spectacular natural location, founded by Saint Kevin in the 6th century. The extensive ruins of Glendalough include several early churches, and an impressive 30-metre high round tower. The valley stretches for approximately 3km and contains several areas of great historical interest and beauty. The Upper Lake area was the original site of the monastic settlement and features Reefert Church, Temple-na-Skellig, Saint Kevin's Cell, Saint Kevin's Bed, the Caher and various high crosses.

Built on the banks of the Avoca River from where it used to draw its power, you'll find a large **Avoca Woolen Mill** Store and Café, and a working hand weaving mill. The Avoca Mill itself dates from 1723, and is said to be Ireland's oldest working mill, and indeed one of the world's oldest. The Avoca throws, rugs and scarves you will find at Avoca's 12 locations around Ireland and shipped all over the world are all woven in the original mill. Initially it took the raw wool from the sheep of the surrounding hills and valleys and through a process of carding, spinning, dyeing and weaving transformed it into clothing and blankets for barter and sale. Visitors are welcome to view the whole weaving process at first hand with a Tour of the Mill. The picturesque village of Avoca itself was the fictional home of BBC TV's Ballykissangel. Overall, the warm and friendly atmosphere in this charming and historical location makes the visit to Avoca a wonderful experience.



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## **Day 5 - Irish Whiskey & Brewery Tours**

Touring Kilbeggan Distillery, Tullamore D.E.W. Distillery, Jameson Distillery and Guinness Storehouse.

Travel to the **Kilbeggan Distillery** in County Westmeath, which is the oldest distillery in the world, dating back to 1757. A trip to this well-known County Westmeath attraction will enable you to discover the history of authentic artisan Irish whiskey, as well as sample it for yourself. Start your guided tour back in 1757 and find out how Irish whiskey was made in decades past. Discover the families that owned the distillery and the importance the local community had on the brand you see today. Visitors to the Kilbeggan Distillery Experience will learn about the traditional methods of mashing in oak mash tuns, fermenting in Oregon pine vats and see the new Kilbeggan malt spirit flowing from ancient pot stills. The original waterwheel which once powered the whole distillery is still on show today. A stroll across the courtyard takes you to the present day, where whiskey is still being produced using ancient traditions, passed on from generation to generation. The Kilbeggan Whiskey Bar is worth a visit to browse the complete range of whiskeys.



Travel to see one of County Offaly's most famous exports is **Tullamore D.E.W.**, a blended Irish whiskey originally produced by William Grant & Sons in Tullamore. While production was moved to Midleton, County Cork in the 1950s, Tullamore has recently seen the establishment of a new Tullamore distillery and state-of-the-art visitor centre. For anyone interested in Irish whiskey, a tour of Tullamore D.E.W. Visitor Centre takes in every step of the artisan craft of whiskey making, illustrated with audiovisual media and the know-how of expert guides. Visitors on the tour through Distillery House will meet the Tullamore D.E.W. Distillery Ambassador, explore the production process from still house to warehouse and even create their own unique blend of whiskey in the blending room. After distillery tour return to Dublin.



Since John Jameson's brave first steps into this building in 1780, Jameson have been focused on his ambition to create unforgettable experiences (along with great whiskey, of course). The new look **Jameson Distillery**

Bow St. carries on this ambition through three fully guided experiences: Bow St. Experience, The Whiskey Makers, and The Whiskey Shakers - all of which have a firm focus on immersive storytelling. You'll be invited to touch, smell, and most importantly, taste Jameson in the original Bow St. Distillery buildings. An exciting



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## COMPANY NAME: IRELAND TRAVEL LINKS

part of their Whiskey Makers & Whiskey Shakers experiences is a visit to their live Maturation Warehouse, where you'll get to taste Jameson straight from the barrel. The only way to get closer to the source would be to have John Jameson guide you through the distillery himself.

Tour of the **Guinness Storehouse** located in the heart of the St James's Gate Brewery, which has been home to the world famous stout since 1759. Ireland's number one International Visitor Attraction, the Guinness Storehouse is the Home of Guinness, where you will discover what goes into the making of each and every pint, and learn about the incredible brand history stretching over 250 years. The highlight for many visitors is the Gravity Bar, symbolically the 'Head of the Pint', where visitors can enjoy unparalleled panoramic views of Dublin city – views that are all the better with a complimentary pint in hand.



**Accommodation:** O' Callaghan Hotels (Davenport, St Stephans Green, Alexander or Mont Clare Hotels), or Merrion Hotel.

### **Day 6 - Depart Dublin Airport**

Depart Dublin Airport

### **Terms & Conditions**

Costs may fluctuate upon the time of year and availability cannot be guaranteed on all accommodations.

25% Deposit required to secure the booking of Accommodation and Transport. Non refundable upon payment.

Full payment of tour required 1 month in advance of the tour date. Non refundable upon payment.

Please note Accommodation includes Bed & Breakfast only.

All lunch and evening meals are not included, but the finalised itinerary will have suggested local restaurants.

Activity costs are not included unless requested.

It is advised to take out travel insurance to cover every eventuality.

Tips are not included but encouraged.

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