
EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

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Arrive and Depart from Dublin Airport

Day 1 - Dublin City Day Tour (Dublin)

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

Day 2 - Tour Newgrange, Titanic & Political Tour (Dublin to Belfast)

Touring Newgrange, Titanic Experience & Belfast Political Tour.

Day 3 - Antrim Causeway Coast Tour (Belfast to Portstewart)

Touring Antrim Coast, Carrick a Rede rope bridge, Giants Causeway, Bushmills Distillery, Dunluce Castle & Game of Thrones Locations available for fans.

Day 4 - Touring Malin Head & Derry City Walls (Portstewart to Derry)

Touring Inishowen Peninsula, Malin Head Dough Famine Village, Grianán of Aileach, Fort Dunree & Derry City Walls.

Day 5 - Touring Slieve League Cliffs & Glenveagh National Park (Derry to Donegal)

Touring Glenveagh National Park, Kilclooney Dolmen & Slieve League Cliffs

Day 6 - Touring Sligo (Donegal to Lough Lynn Castle)

Touring Strandhill, W.B Yeats Grave, Benbulbin & The Lake District.

Day 7 - Touring Strokestown, Clonmacnoise and Kilbeggan (Lough Lynn to Dublin)

Touring Strokestown House & Famine Museum, Clonmacnoise & Kilbeggan Distillery.

Day 8 - Depart Dublin

ACCOMMODATION

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

4 STAR ACCOMMODATION

1 x Night @ 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.

1 x Night @ Malmaison Hotel, Belfast. The Malmaison Hotel combines the city's amazing history with the funkiest contemporary style. Inspired by the proportions of the Titanic, Belfast's most famous ship, the hotel's comfy beds, freestanding bathtubs and hospitality is the biggest in Ireland.

1 x Night @ Me & Mrs Jones Hotel, Portstewart. Me and Mrs Jones is the North Coast's only authentic boutique, luxury, lifestyle hotel. The most unique and attractive in its area, the modern hotel decor has been carefully chosen and boasts a sense of space and opulence throughout.

1 x Night @ Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Londonderry, Co Derry. Beech Hill epitomises Georgian elegance and gracious country living. It is the hotel where your comfort and pleasure always come first and where you are assured of warm and genuine hospitality. In richly wooded countryside just 2-miles from the bustling city of Derry-Londonderry, some of the world's biggest celebrities have stayed at Beech Hill, a hotel known internationally for its tranquillity, style and luxurious trappings.

1 x Night @ Harveys Point Hotel, Donegal. Harvey's Point is the perfect gateway to adventure and activity breaks in Ireland. Whether you want to linger in our luxury suites, take a meandering walk along the many guided routes beside the hotel, experience a beauty treatment or just simply chill out and are pampered with fine dining and classical music in the mystical surroundings of the Blue stack mountains on the shores of Lough Eske.

1 x Night @ Lough Lynn Castle, Co. Leitrim. This magical castle has been transformed from an incredible ancestral home, into a place where old-world elegance mixes seamlessly with unimaginable modern luxury. At its southern tip, on the banks of the most scenic lough in the country lies a very special place, eating, sleeping and exploring in an Irish castle is a once-in-a-lifetime experience

1 x Night @ Maldron Dublin Airport Hotel, Dublin. Conveniently located near Dublin Airports Terminal 1 and 2 and on the periphery of Dublin city, Maldron Hotel Dublin Airport is the ideal stopover choice for visitors flying into or out of Dublin.

5 STAR ACCOMMODATION

1 x Night @ 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.

1 x Night @ Fitzwilliam Hotel, Belfast. A five star, super-elegant masterpiece in the heart of Belfast, next door to the Grand Opera House on Great Victoria Street. Fabulous guestrooms, incredible food, a much-loved bar, state-of-the-art conference rooms and the best service you've ever experienced.

1 x Night @ Bushmills Inn Hotel, Portrush. Set against the backdrop of the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland, The Bushmills Inn is the perfect retreat for those who crave the unconventional, yet still expect exceptional service. Originally a Coaching Inn in the 1600s, this boutique Hotel and Restaurant is steeped in Irish history with a myriad of places to hide from the world from inglenook turf fires to hayloft snugs.

1 x Night @ Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Londonderry, Co Derry. Beech Hill epitomises Georgian elegance and gracious country living. It is the hotel where your comfort and pleasure always come first and where you are assured of warm and genuine hospitality. In richly wooded countryside just 2-miles from the bustling city of Derry-Londonderry, some of the world's biggest celebrities have stayed at Beech Hill, a hotel known internationally for its tranquillity, style and luxurious trappings.

1 x Night @ Lough Eske Castle, Donegal. Lough Eske Castle, a five-star castle hotel located on a secluded lakeside estate just outside Donegal Town, has a rich history dating back to the 1400s. Associated with the O'Donnell Clan, the founding fathers of Donegal, the property is based in the northwest region of Ireland. The historic storybook setting of the castle delivers superior hospitality and comfort to guests of every kind.

1 x Night @ Lough Lynn Castle, Leitrim. This magical castle has been transformed from an incredible ancestral home, into a place where old-world elegance mixes seamlessly with unimaginable modern luxury. At its southern tip, on the banks of the most scenic lough in the country lies a very special place, eating, sleeping and exploring in an Irish castle is a once-in-a-lifetime experience

1 x Night @ 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.

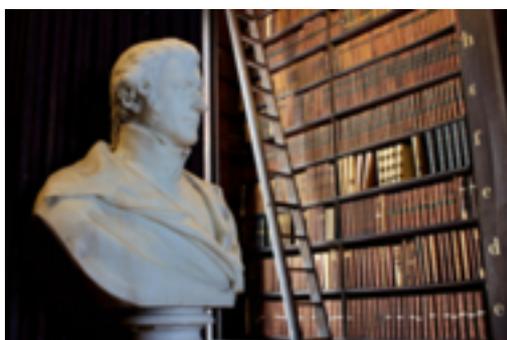
TRANSPORT

8 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.

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.

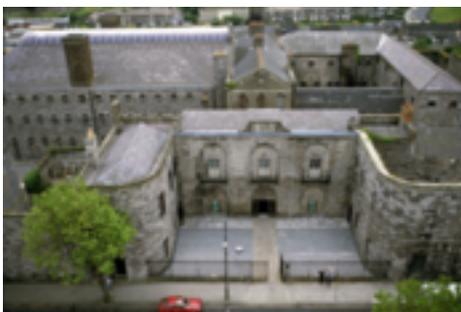


Tour of the **National Museum of Ireland-Natural History**, on Merrion Street in Dublin, has galleries of animals from Ireland and overseas, as well as geological exhibits from a total collection of about two million scientific specimens. Just two years before Charles Darwin published his famous work, '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.

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), / Merrion Hotel

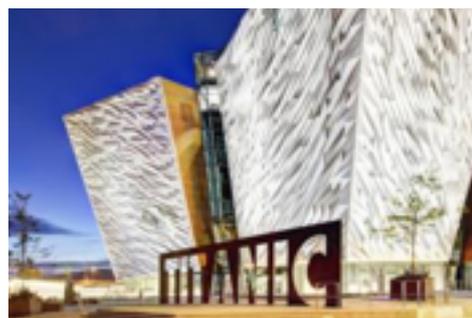
Day 2 - Touring Newgrange Titanic Experience & Political Tour

Touring Newgrange, Titanic Experience & Political Tour.



Travel to the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre in Donore, County Meath, 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 onwards to Belfast. The **Titanic Experience** is a 'must see' on any trip to Belfast and has become the most popular tourist attraction in Northern Ireland and one of the top attractions in Ireland. Housed in an iconic, six-floor building, Titanic Belfast is located in the heart of Belfast, right beside the historic site of this world-famous ship's construction. The Titanic experience takes you through nine galleries, telling the story of RMS Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end. The galleries are innovative and interactive with many features including diving to the depth of the ocean to explore where RMS Titanic now rests. The Titanic story is told at Titanic Belfast in a fresh and insightful way. Visitors can now also experience three new galleries, which capture the excitement of launch day, as well as The Maiden Voyage gallery, which transports visitors from four embarkation ports, Belfast, Southampton, Cherbourg and Queenstown (now known as Cobh) to Titanic's deck promenade. Guests can not only see and hear the ocean and feel the ships engines rumbling on board at the Palm Court Café but can also meet Fredrick Dent Ray, a dining room steward and survivor, utilising technology used in Disneyland's Haunted Mansion and Universal Studios Florida's Hogwarts Express attraction. The Maiden Voyage gallery also includes an original first class luncheon menu dated April 14, 1912, as well as the last letter ever to be written on board the Titanic.



On a special Black Taxi **Political Tour** you will visit the Falls Road and Shankill Road where you will learn of the history of conflict between the two communities and witness the Peaceline wall which divides the two.



Described by the Independent Newspaper as 'the world's greatest open air art gallery' where they use the political wall murals to relate events from a historical perspective and where you can add your message to the peace wall. The enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides will explain the many murals which are to be seen on the tours as well as many sites which have played important roles in the political history of Belfast. The guides are happy to cater the tour to your specification and will answer any question you may have for them.

Accommodation: Malmaison Hotel / Fitzwilliam Hotel, Belfast.

Day 3 - Antrim Causeway Coast Tour (Belfast to Portstewart)

Touring Antrim Coast, Carrick a Rede Rope Bridge, Giant's Causeway, Bushmills Distillery, Dunluce Castle & Game of Thrones Locations available for fans.



Travel up to the scenic **Antrim Causeway Coast** to **Carrick a Rede Rope Bridge**. Connected to the cliffs by a rope bridge across the Atlantic Ocean, Carrick-a-Rede Island (home to a single building - a fisherman's cottage) is the final destination. Suspended almost 100 ft (30 m) above sea level, the rope bridge was first erected by salmon fisherman 350 years ago.

The **Giant's Causeway**, Northern Ireland's first UNESCO Heritage Site, is a geological wonder and home to a wealth of history and legend. The 40,000 basalt stone columns left by volcanic eruptions 60 million years ago intrigue and inspire visitors. State of the art interpretation within the award winning Visitor Centre unlocks the mystery and stories of this amazing place and offers a unique glimpse into the wonder that is the Giant's Causeway. Visitors can explore way-marked trails and enjoy spectacular coastal scenery.





Bushmills Irish Whiskey is made at Ireland's oldest working distillery in County Antrim, on the beautiful North Coast. The original grant to distil was signed in 1608 by King James 1st and there has been distillation on this site since then, using the unique water from our own stream and Irish barley. The Bushmills Brand Experience encompasses guided tours around a working distillery with all the associated sights and smells, tutored whiskey tastings, a specialist whiskey shop and a well stocked gift shop with exclusive Bushmills merchandise. At the conclusion of your tour you will be offered a whiskey or a soft drink in our 1608 Bar.

The iconic ruin of **Dunluce Castle** bears witness to a long and tumultuous history. First built on the dramatic coastal cliffs of north County Antrim by the MacQuillan family around 1500, the earliest written record of the castle was in 1513. It was seized by the ambitious MacDonnell clan in the 1550's, who set about stamping their mark on the castle under the leadership of the famous warrior chieftain Sorely Boy MacDonnell during an era of violence, intrigue and rebellion. In the 17th century Dunluce was the seat of the earls of County Antrim and saw the establishment of a small town in 1608. Visitors can explore the findings of archaeological digs within the cobbled streets and stone merchants' houses of the long-abandoned Dunluce Town. The dramatic history of Dunluce is matched by tales of a banshee and how the castle kitchens fell into the sea one stormy night in 1639.



Accommodation: Me & Mrs Jones Hotel, Portstewart / Bushmills Inn, Portstewart

Day 4 - Touring Malin Head & Derry City Walls (Portstewart to Derry)

Touring Inishowen Peninsula, Malin Head, Dough Famine Village, Grianán of Aileach, Fort Dunree & Derry City Walls.

Travel to the rugged yet inviting, Donegal's **Malin Head**, which is steeped in history and offers activities such as walking, fishing, swimming and bird watching. Here, north of Trawbreaga Bay, you can view Five Finger Strand, home to some of Europe's largest sand dunes. At low tide, you can even spot the wreckage of the 'Twilight', which sank in 1889 while sailing to Derry. For more history, follow the coast road. You'll pass the old radio station, built in 1910, and The Tower, a derelict signal station located on Banba's Crown, the most northerly point in Ireland. It's the perfect place to relax with a picnic, as the stunning panorama includes Inishtrahull and Tory islands, as well as the Scottish hills on a clear day. Plus, you can work off any extra indulgences with a walk along the cliffs



to Hell's Hole, a chasm where the tide rushes in with impressive force. If treasure hunting is more your speed, head east to Ballyhillion beach, which dates back to the ice age and is known for its many semi-precious stones.

Travel to the **Doagh Famine Village** which tells the story of a Donegal family and community living on the edge of Donegal and surviving from Famine times right up to the present day. A visit here also helps explain the road to peace in Northern Ireland, Ireland in the 'Celtic Tiger' years and the current economic collapse. Doagh Famine Village contains a wide selection of actual size attractions, including some original dwellings which were still inhabited up to 20 years ago. In fact, the centre has been built around the home of the owner who lived here with his family until 1983. By then, living in a thatched cottage was no longer fashionable and today this building tells of the subsistence way of life on Doagh Island. Some of the Famine Village's buildings – such as the Orange Hall, Presbyterian Meeting House, Mass Rock and Hedge School and a Republican Safe House – depict the diverse history and culture of this corner of the Inishowen peninsula. Other buildings house information on the travelling community's culture and other Irish traditions such as food, cures and the 'Irish Wake', a traditional send-off for the dead.



The Stone Fort of **Grianán of Aileach** sits on a hilltop in Inishowen. 250m above sea level, the stone fort was probably first built on an earthen rath. The view from Aileach is breathtaking. The glistening waters of Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly are clear, as is the form of the entire peninsula. A windy and exposed place, Grianán has been a silent witness to the history of Ireland. The origins of the Grianán of Aileach fort are dated back to 1700 BC. It is linked to the Tuatha de Danann who invaded Ireland before the Celts and built stone forts on top of strategic hills. They worshipped Dagda (the Good God) and he too is associated with the origins of Aileach. It was he who ordered the building of a stone fort to act as a burial monument to his dead son. The round fort is built largely without mortar. The interior has three terraces and wooden structures were built against the terraces to provide accommodation. The outline of Bronze Age or Iron Age ramparts can be seen below the fort.



Travel to Buncrana where **Fort Dunree** is a military museum with special emphasis on coastal artillery and the military history of the north west. Fort Dunree was first opened to the public in 1986 and has attracted tourists from all over the world ever since, using the latest DVD and interactive technology. The unique history of Fort Dunree is fully explained and recreated in vibrant and colourful displays. In its spectacular natural location Fort Dunree is rich in wildlife some of it unique for the area. This is detailed in a beautiful wildlife exhibition, the Wildlife Discovery Room, in the Old Fort Hospital.



Travel to Derry/Londonderry and take a walk around the **Walls of Derry** to reveal 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 1613-1618 by the honourable, the Irish Society as defences for early seventeenth century settlers from England and Scotland. The Walls, which are approximately 1.5km in circumference, form a walkway around the inner city and provide a unique promenade to view the layout of the original town which still preserves its Renaissance Style street plan to this day.

The four original gates to the Walled City are Bishop's Gate, Ferryquay Gate, Butcher Gate and Shipquay Gate. Three further gates were added - magazine Gate, Castle Gate and New Gate. The city claims Europe's largest collection of cannon whose origins are known precisely. Many of them thundered in anger over the two seventeenth century sieges. In 2005 the surviving 24 cannon were restored back to their former glory. The cannon are displayed throughout the City Walls with the impressive Roaring Meg located on the double bastion.

Accommodation: Beech Hill Country House Hotel, Derry.

Day 5 - Touring Slieve League Cliffs & Glenveagh National Park (Derry to Donegal)

Touring Glenveagh National Park, Kilclooney Dolmen & Slieve League Cliffs.



Travel to **Glenveagh National Park** which is set in some 16,500 hectares of County Donegal mountains, lakes, glens and woods, with a large herd of red deer, Glenveagh Castle is a 19th Century, castellated mansion built between 1867 and 1873. Surrounded by the famous Glenveagh Gardens, its construction in a remote mountain setting was inspired by the Victorian idyll of a romantic highland retreat. John Townsend Trench, a cousin of its builder and first owner, John George Adair, designed it.

The **Kilclooney Dolmen** is a portal-tome or dolmen, prominent on the skyline north-north-west of Ardara. It well displays the classic features from which this type of monument derives its name. The matched portal stones and gracefully up tilted capstone (nearly 6m long and one of the largest in Ireland) that stretch over the chamber entrance convey a sense of architectural awareness on the part of the builders. Its streamlined profile has inspired numerous analogies:



perhaps a bird, a fish, depending on the imagination of the observer.



Travel to the **Slieve League Cliffs** west of Donegal. Standing at the viewing point on Slieve League, in County Donegal, an amazing sea vista and landscape opens up before you. From here you can see across Donegal Bay to counties Leitrim, Sligo and Mayo, out to the Atlantic Ocean and north west to the islands of Rathlin O'Byrne and Glencolumbkille and beside you of course, is the magnificent cliffs of Slieve League, rising almost 600 metres out of the Atlantic. The Slieve League Cultural Centre hosts a coffee shop, a craft gallery and a tourist information centre. The area has a vast range of archaeological monuments from Neolithic tombs (c.4000BC), to early Christian monastic sites and Napoleonic watch towers.

Accommodation: Harveys Point Hotel / Lough Eske Castle

Day 6 - Touring Sligo (Donegal to Lough Lynn Castle)

Touring Strandhill, W.B Yeats Grave, Benbulbin, & The Lake District.

Travel into the depths of the Wild Atlantic Ways Surf Coast. **Strandhill Beach** is an area of great natural beauty located 5 miles west of Sligo town with panoramic views of Knocknarea and Benbulbin. Option of hiking Knocknarea Hill along the Queen Maeve Hiking Trail to the summit where lies a mound of stones believed to be a neolithic passage tomb to the final resting place of Queen Maeve. As well as being an extremely popular surfing spot, Strandhill has a number of amazing walks taken from Strandhill Beach to Culleenamore Strand and also to Killaspurbrone. Partake in a surfing lesson or walk one of the scenic routes. For a pure luxury unique experience, pay a visit to Voya Seaweed Baths in Strandhill. Patrons have the luxury of private rooms, each with its own Victorian cast iron bath and steam unit. Imagine relaxing back into a bath full of hot seawater and steamed seaweed. The heat releases all the seaweed's rich, silky, essential oils so the body feels smooth, buoyant and luxurious.



Travel to Drumcliffe, County Sligo is set against the striking backdrop of the Benbulbin Mountains and is best known as the final resting place of **W.B. Yeats**. Found in the churchyard, his grave is marked with a simple headstone with the inscription, "cast a cold eye on life, on death, horseman, pass by."

This was Yeats' self penned epitaph together with the instructions that the grave consist of "no marble, no conventional phrase". The graveyard also contains a high cross and nearby is the site of a 6th Century Columbian monastery. **Benbulbin** is known as County Sligo's 'Table Mountain' and is part of the Dartry Mountains. Benbulbin was formed as a result of the different responses to erosion of the limestone and shale of which the mountain is formed. A hard and resistant limestone forms the upper cliffs and precipices. Benbulbin was formed during the Ice age, when large parts of the Earth were under glaciers. It was originally merely a large ridge, however the moving glaciers cut into the earth, leaving a distinct formation, now called Benbulbin.



The River Shannon is the largest river in Ireland and Great Britain combined. Its upper **Lake District** offers spectacular scenery as well activities. Travel along the great river by Lough Arrow, Lough Key and onto Lough Key Forrest Park. Comprising some 350 hectares of mixed woodland, a lake and a number of islands, Lough Key Forest Park is one of Ireland's most extensive and picturesque forest parks in Ireland. The visitor centre is the gateway to the parkland and forest at Lough Key. Environmental sustainability and energy efficiency are at the heart of its design and facilities including the tree canopy trail, Boda Borg Challenge and the adventure play kingdom. Travel onto the picturesque Carrick on Shannon which as its name suggests is on the river Shannon before arriving at your destination at Lough Lynn Castle on Lough Lynn lake.



Accommodation: Lough Lynn Castle, Leitrim

Day 7 - Touring Strokestown, Clonmacnoise and Kilbeggan (Lough Lynn to Dublin)

Touring Strokestown House & Famine Museum, Clonmacnoise & Kilbeggan Distillery.

Travel to **Strokestown Park House**, a Georgian Palladian mansion preserved with its original furnishings and fabrics, which can be seen daily by guided tour. The House was the family home of the Pakenham Mahon family and is built on the site of the 16th century castle, home of The O Conor Roe Gaelic Chieftains. The Landlord Major Denis Mahon was assassinated in November 1847 at the height of The Great Famine of Ireland and it is fitting that The **Irish National Famine Museum** was established at Strokestown Park in 1994 using the unique original documents which came to light during the restoration of The House. The six acre walled pleasure gardens have been restored to their original splendour and give an insight into horticultural design and architecture from the 1740's to the present day. The Irish National Famine Museum located in the Stable Yards tells a different story and highlights the parallels between a tragic chapter of Irish History and



COMPANY NAME: IRELAND TRAVEL LINKS

contemporary global hunger. The Great Irish famine of the 1840's is now regarded as the single greatest social disaster of 19th century Europe. Between 1845 and 1850, when blight devastated the potato crop, in excess of two million people – almost one-quarter of the entire population – either died or emigrated. Within a short time the visitor has been brought on a journey through Irish History, the good and the bad, from Ireland in the 1600's, right up to the present day.

Travel to one of the most famous monastic sites in Ireland, **Clonmacnoise** located along the River Shannon near the village of Shannonbridge, Co Offaly. It became a world-renowned centre for learning in the 9th century and was visited by Pope John Paul II. A walk amongst the peaceful stone ruins of this famous place will



conjure images of the saints and scholars of Ireland's renowned Golden Age of learning. Founded by St Ciaran in the mid-6th century, it became a great centre of religion and learning, visited by scholars from all over the world. Many historical manuscripts, including the 11th century Annals of Tighernach and the 12th century Book of the Dun Cow, were written here. The beautifully preserved structures of Clonmacnoise Cathedral, Temple Doolin, Temple Hurpan and Temple Melaghlin will impress and leave those who visit Clonmacnoise with an authentic sense of the history of Ireland. Travel onwards to Dublin City.

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.

Accommodation: Maldron Airport Hotel / Merrion Hotel

Day 8 - 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.
