
EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

SUGGESTED EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

Arrive and Depart from Dublin Airport

Combining Private Guided Tours with rail transport between the regions of the East and South of Ireland, these tours allow flexibility to pick and choose from our day tour options with a minimum requirement of 2 day tours in each region (minimum 4 in total). See suggested Itinerary below.

Day 1 - Touring Newgrange and Trim & Malahide Castles

Touring Newgrange, Trim Castle, Malahide Castle & Howth Head

Day 2 - Wicklow Tour 4hrs

Touring Powerscourt House and Gardens, Wicklow Mountains, Sallys Gap, Glendalough & Avoca Woolen Mills

Day 3 - Unguided Touring Day

Suggest touring Dublin City Sights and Attractions

Day 4 - Rail Transport Dublin to Cork

Depart Aisling Hotel and walk to nearby Heuston Train Station for train to Cork Kent Train Station. On arrival walk short distance to Gabriel Guesthouse / Jurys Inn Hotel.

Day 5 - Touring West Cork

Touring Charles Fort, Kinsale, Franciscan friary of Timoleague, Clonakilty, Drombeg Stone Circle, Glandore, Union Hall & Bantry House & Gardens.

Day 6 - Touring East Cork

Touring Blarney Castle, Cobh, Youghal, Lismore Castle & Gardens & Middleton Distillery.

Day 7 - Unguided Touring Day

Suggest touring Cork City Sights and Attractions.

Day 8 - Rail Transport back to Dublin

Depart Gabriel Guesthouse / Jurys Hotel and walk to nearby Cork Train Station for train to Heuston Train Station in Dublin. On arrival walk short distance to Aisling Hotel.

Day 9 - Depart Dublin Airport

Transfer to Dublin Airport for flight departure

Additional Touring Options

Irelands Ancient East Tour Leg

Dublin City Day Tour

Touring Trinity College, St Patricks Cathedral, National Museum of Archaeological & History, National Gallery of Ireland, Killiney & Dalkey.

Studs & Castle Tour

Touring National Stud & Japanese Gardens, Rock of Cashel, Kilkenny Medieval City & Kilkenny Castle.

Belfast Day Tour

Touring Titanic Experience & Black Taxi Political Tour.

Whiskey & Brewery Road-trip, Kilbeggan, Tullamore, Jameson & Guinness Storehouse

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

South Tour Leg

Cork City Day Tour

Touring Cork City Gaol & Radio Musuem, St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, English Market & Patrick Street Shopping.

Castles Day Tour

Touring Cahir Castle, Swiss Cottages, Rock Of Cashel & Kings Johns Castle, Limerick.

TRANSPORT

4 x Days Chauffeured Guided Tour (Minimum Tour Requirement of 4 days) & Airport 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.

Return Rail Journey between Dublin Heuston Station and Killarney on Irish Rails Intercity Express Service. Fast, reliable and comfortable with complimentary onboard Wi-Fi, you can send e-mails etc and you don't have to worry about losing power with 220V power point sockets at every seat. Hot snacks are available from the buffet bar carriage and stewards will pass through the train with the trolley offering a range of snacks such as sandwiches, hot and cold beverages, cakes & pastries and confectionery.

ACCOMMODATION

4 STAR ACCOMMODATION

4 x Nights @ Aisling Hotel, Dublin. The Aisling Hotel is in excellent locations for both seeing the city and its close proximity to Huestion Rail Station. The Luas tram passes right by the door of the hotel bringing you to the city centre in just 5 minutes. Dublin Zoo, Kilmainham Gaol, the Guinness Storehouse and Jameson Distillery are all a short walk from hotel. Flexibility is at the heart of what we do to ensure you get the very best service from our team. Get the real Irish experience through staying in a family-owned business with years of experience allowing for extraordinary service.



4 x Nights @ Jurys Inn Hotel, Cork. Jurys Inn Cork is ideally located for your stay in this beautiful coastal city. We know the little details matter, and that's why we have everything from stylish yet comfortable rooms, on-site restaurants, events spaces and more. Located alongside the River Lee, just a short walk away from Merchant's Quay and Paul St shopping centres, Cork train station and a Cork Opera House. Fitzgerald Park and Cork Museum are also close by, so there's plenty to explore in the areas surrounding our conveniently-situated hotel.



OR

4 x Nights @ Gabriel Guesthouse, Cork. With its elevated position, Gabriel House is a beautiful, period guesthouse that looks out over Cork's cathedral spires and the harbour. Gabriel House is ideally located close to both bus and train stations and is only a short walk away from the bustling centre of Cork. Gabriel House offers high quality accommodation to cater for everyone, with the now-legendary breakfast, sourcing top quality local produce, such as freshly laid eggs each morning by our own flock of hens and our breads, biscuits and scones are freshly baked, in house, each day.



TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - 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 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.



Day 2 - Touring Glendalough & Wicklow Mountains

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

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.



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.

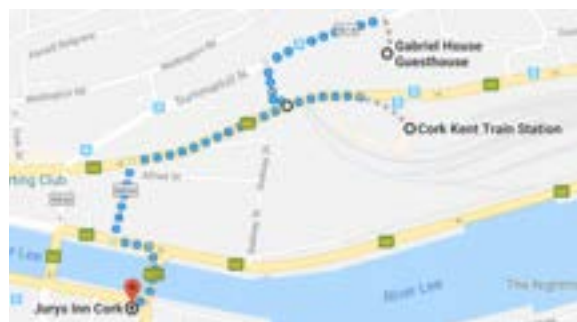


Day 3 - Unguided Touring Day

Free Day to explore the many sights and attraction in Dublin City. Take a walk from the Aisling Hotel to the nearby Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin Zoo, Old Jameson Distillery and Guinness Storehouse. With the Luas tram passing outside your hotel be in the city centre in less than 5 minutes to explore Dublins main thoroughfare O'Connell street and the GPO or its many shops. If you want to learn the history of Ireland head south across the river Liffey to the National Museums of Ireland (Archeology & Natural History) as well as checking out the famous Book of Kells at Trinity College. Its all on your doorstep, you have the freedom to see as much or as little as you wan't. If you wan't a guided tour instead than add that option and we will include it in the package.

Day 4 - Rail Transport Dublin to Cork

Depart Aisling Hotel and walk to nearby Heuston Train Station (Midday / Early Afternoon Departure) for train to Cork Kent Train Station with approximate 2 and a half hour journey. On arrival walk short distance to Gabriel Guesthouse / Jurys Inn Hotel.



Day 5 - Touring West Cork & Killarney National Park

Touring of Charles Fort, Kinsale, Franciscan friary of Timoleague, Clonakilty, Drombeg Stone Circle, Glandore, Union Hall & Bantry House & Gardens.

Before arrival in Kinsale take a tour of **Charles Fort**. This star-shaped military fortress was constructed between 1677 and 1682, during the reign of King Charles II, to protect the town and harbour of Kinsale in County Cork. William Robinson, architect of the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham Dublin, and Superintendent of Fortifications, is credited with designing the fort. As one of the largest military forts in the country, Charles Fort has been associated with some of the most momentous events in Irish history. These include the Williamite War in 1690 and the Irish Civil War of 1922 - 23. Charles Fort remained garrisoned by the British army until 1922. Travel onwards to **Kinsale** and sample the culinary and scenic delights of this harbour town. Discover Desmond Castle and take a quick tour of the harbour.



Tour of the **Franciscan friary of Timoleague** which was founded in the late-13th or early-14th century and today, extensive ruins remain in the village, which is located in County Cork, just 10km east of Clonakilty. Visitors can explore the long church, nave, transept, cloister and tower. They can also find a bullaun stone and fine windows. It's believed that either Donal Glas MacCarthy or William Barry founded the friary, which survived until it was burnt by English soldiers in 1642. Travel onwards to Clonakilty for a quick stop in this harbour town.

Travel to **Drombeg Stone Circle**, or as it is locally known as the Druid's Altar, which is located on the edge of a rocky terrace overlooking the sea about a kilometre away, in Glandore County Cork. This is a circle of 17 standing stones which on excavation showed that there had been an urn burial in the centre. It has been dated to between 153 BC and 127AD. Excavations in 1957 and 1958 revealed cremated bones in a deliberately broken pot wrapped with thick cloth and buried near the centre of the circle along with 80 other smashed sherds, four bits of a shale and a collection of sweepings from a pyre. After Drombeg travel onwards via the spectacular picturesque fishing villages of Glandore and Union League.



Travel onwards to tour **Bantry House & Gardens**, which is the ancestral home of the Earls of Bantry which is situated overlooking Bantry Bay in West Cork. The title lapsed in 1891 but the house is still owned and lived in by the direct descendants of the 1st Earl of Bantry. Since 1946 the House and Garden has been open to the public. The House has an important collection of art treasures mainly collected by the 2nd Earl of Bantry on his Grand Tour. The garden was inspired by travels of the 2nd Earl. It is laid out in the Italian style over seven terraces, with the house sitting on the third terrace. A Parterre facing south surrounding a wisteria circle which again surrounds a fountain was also created. From there rise the famous Hundred Steps, a monumental staircase built of local stone, set amidst azaleas and rhododendron.



Day 6 - Touring East Cork

Touring Blarney Castle (Kiss the Blarney Stone), Cobh, Youghal, Lismore Castle & Gardens & Middleton Distillery.

Travel onwards to Blarney to tour **Blarney Castle and Gardens**. The historic Blarney Castle near Cork City is perhaps most famous for the Blarney Stone but it's also a great destination for the whole family. According to legend, the stone has the power to give anyone who kisses it the 'gift of the gab' (or the ability to be a smooth talker), so for those who dare, a climb to the battlements to reach the famous stone could be well worth it. For a more relaxing experience, take a stroll through the Blarney Castle Gardens and Rock Close—an attractive destination in their own right.





Travel onwards and visit the harbour town of **Cobh**. Cobh Heritage Centre presents the Emigration & Maritime Story a dramatic exhibition of the origins, history and legacy of Cobh. Retrace the steps of the two and a half million adults and children who emigrated from Ireland via Cobh on coffin ships, early steamers and finally on the great ocean liners. Explore the conditions on board the early emigrant vessels, including the dreaded coffin ship and experience life on board a convict ship leaving Cobh for Australia in 1801. You can also learn of Cobh's special connections with the ill fated Titanic, which sank on her maiden voyage, located in the original White Star Line Ticket Office in the centre of Cobh town (formally known as Queenstown), in what was the departure point for the final 123 passengers who boarded the Titanic. You can also relive the horror of World War I and the sinking of the Lusitania off Cork Harbour with the loss of 1,198 lives. Another attraction to visit in Cobh is the grandiose neo-Gothic building of St Colman's Cathedral. It took 47 years to build and finally opened in 1911. Its spire stands 100m tall and the tower houses 42 bells, comprising the largest carillon in Ireland.

To visit the **Jameson Experience in Midleton**, East Cork is to take a leap through history. Step through the doors and you'll step back in time—carts are piled high with sacks of grain and you can smell the malted barley drying in closed kilns. Thousands of casks housing ageing whiskey are on show, as well as original kilns and the largest pot still in the world. You'll learn about "the angel's share" (the amount of alcohol that evaporates from the cask during maturation) and the fascinating story behind the creation of one of the most well-known Irish whiskeys in the world. Visitors are guided through the distillery scene, while selected volunteers are offered the chance to take part in a whiskey tasting that will demonstrate the differences between Scotch, American and Irish whiskey. After the tasting, guests are rewarded with a much coveted Irish Whiskey Taster Certificate, as well as a complimentary glass of Jameson with a mixer of their choice.



A visit to **Youghal Clock Gate Tower** is a journey in Time – "Time" being the operative word here. It is a look into a unique world and time span of 600 years in Youghal. From its time as a store house back in the 1500s through its era as town gaol and finally as a family home, Youghal Clock Gate Tower is the ever present structure in Youghal straddling North & South Main Street.





Lismore Castle it is not opened to the public but is very much a family home. Henry II visited Lismore in 1171 and chose a site for a castle. Raymond le Gros and his Anglo-Normans ransacked the town two years later and Henry's castle site was built upon by Prince John in 1185. These events marked a decline in influence for monastic Lismore. The castle passed to Sir Walter Raleigh in 1589 and Raleigh sold it to Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork, in 1602. He immediately set about fashioning the countryside round Lismore in the English way, with stocked deer parks, fruits orchards, fish ponds and other features of the English Lordly manor estate. In 1753, the castle passed to the 4th Duke of Devonshire on his marriage to Lady Charlotte and the present castle is still owned by the Devonshires. Spread over seven acres, the **historic gardens at Lismore Castle** in County Waterford are divided into two very distinct and different halves. The Upper Garden is a complete example of the 17th-century walled garden first constructed here by Richard Boyle, the First Earl of Cork, in about 1605. The outer walls and terraces remain and the plantings have changed to match the tastes of those living within the castle. The Lower Garden was mostly created in the 19th century for the Sixth Duke of Devonshire, Joseph Paxton's patron. This garden is informal with shrubs, trees and lawns while the stately Yew Avenue is much older. The gardens contain a fine collection of magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons, herbaceous borders and contemporary sculpture and a remarkable yew walk where Edmund Spenser is said to have written 'The Faerie Queen'.

The **Vee Drive** is a spectacularly beautiful drive, where the scenery climbs and dips and changes constantly to delight the eye at every turn in the road. The road rises through beautifully wooded countryside along the river valley. The landscape then opens up offering a variety of textures and colours, including peatland, rocky headlands, rhododendron groves and blanket heather. The road reaches its apex at The Vee. If this glorious panorama was presented in a 19th century painting, it would be considered highly romantic and even overstated. But these wonderful Knockmealdown Mountains are the stuff of romance and all the visitor can do is stop, stare and enjoy.



Day 7 - Unguided Touring Day

Free Day to explore the many sights and attraction in Cork City. Walk / Cycle around Cork City and explore Cork City Gaol & Radio Musuem, St Fin Barre's Cathedral, The English Market and Patricks Street for shopping. If you wan't a guided tour why not add this extra private chauffeured guided day to your itinerary.

Day 8 - Rail Transport Cork to Dublin

Depart Gabriel Guesthouse / Jurys Inn Hotel and walk to nearby Cork Kent Train Station (Midday / Early Afternoon Departure) for train to Heuston Train Station with approximate 2 and a half hour journey time. On arrival walk short distance to Aisling Hotel.



Day 9 - Depart Dublin Airport

Transfer to Dublin Airport for departure.

ADDITIONAL TOURING OPTIONS

Dublin Option 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.



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.



Dublin Option 2 - Studs & Castle Tour

Touring National Stud & Japanese Gardens, Rock of Cashel, Kilkenny Medieval City & Kilkenny Castle.

The **Irish National Stud** and Gardens symbolises all that is great about County Kildare, the beating heart of Ireland's thoroughbred horse industry. It is the home of equine royalty, immaculately-bred stallions who can be seen and admired alongside protective mares, frolicking foals and athletic yearlings. The Irish National Stud and Gardens in Tully is the only stud farm in Ireland open to the public and offering daily tours. Within the grounds are the world-famous



Japanese Gardens, the Horse Museum and St Fiachra's Garden, created to

celebrate the Millennium. Visit the Japanese Gardens for a relaxing stroll—created between the years 1906 and 1910, they were laid out by Japanese craftsman Tassa Eida and his son Minoru. The gardens trace the passage of a soul from birth to death and beyond, at the same time providing a meeting place for the cultures of East and West. The Horse Museum brings the nation's love affair with horses to life and displays the skeleton of Arkle, a famous Irish Thoroughbred racehorse. The beautifully designed St Fiachra's Garden, it commemorates the patron saint of gardeners St Fiachra.



The magnificent **Kilkenny Castle** overlooks the River Nore and has guarded this important river crossing for more than 900 years. The gardens, with extensive woodland paths, rose garden and ornamental lake, create the setting for a beautiful stroll. Two wings of the castle have been restored to their 19th Century splendour and include a library, drawing room and the noted Long Gallery. A suite of former servants rooms now houses the Butler Art Gallery, which mounts frequently changing exhibitions of contemporary art. The Parade Tower is the Castle's conference venue.



Dublin Option 3 - Belfast Day Tour

Touring Titanic Experience, & Black Taxi Political Tour.

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 were 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.

Dublin Option 4 - 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 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.

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.



Cork Option 1 - Cork City Day Tour

Touring Cork City Gaol, Radio Museum, St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, English Market & Patrick Street Shopping.

Experience bygone days in Cork, both inside and outside prison walls, and also discover the impact radio has had since its invention at the **Cork City Gaol** and **Radio Museum Experience**. Located within earshot of the famous Bells of Shandon. Step back in time to see what 19th and early 20th century life was like in Cork, both inside and outside prison walls. The exhibition shows amazingly lifelike figures, furnished cells and sound effects that allow the visitor to experience the day-to-day life of prisoners and gaolers. Situated in the former Governor's House, the Radio Museum Experience incorporates the restored 6CK Radio Broadcasting Studio. The experience is complemented by an audio-visual presentation on Marconi, particularly his Irish connections, and a wonderfully nostalgic collection of artefacts from the early days of radio.



Situated near the heart of Cork, **St. Fin Barre's Cathedral** is the most recent ecclesiastical site located where the saint is believed to have founded his monastic school in the 7th century. The present Neo-Gothic cathedral, designed by English architect William Bruges, is made from Cork limestone and marble, as well as Bath stone. This Church of Ireland cathedral was consecrated in 1870. Noteworthy features of its magnificent interior include stained glass windows depicting scenes from the Old and New Testaments, marble mosaics from the Pyrenees while the the sanctuary ceiling portrays Christ, surrounded by angels. The building contains more than 1,260 sculptures, a particularly ornate pulpit and even a 24-lb cannonball, a legacy of the Siege of Cork in 1690.



The **English Market** is an indoor food market offering a Victorian wonderland of exotic imported goods and delicious local produce. The origins of the English Market trace back to the times of King James I in 1610, some four hundred years previously and has been officially trading since 1788. A mix of traditional Cork fare and exciting new foods from afar, combined with long standing family-run stalls contribute to the unique appeal and atmosphere of this market. Famously visited by Queen Elizabeth on her historic visit to Ireland in 2013 following the footsteps of royalty at this ancient market place. The nearby Oliver Plunket Street and **Patricks Street** offer the opportunity to go shopping in local Cork shops.



Cork Option 2 - Castles Day Tour

Touring Cahir Castle, Swiss Cottages, Rock Of Cashel & Kings Johns Castle, Limerick.

An imposing 13th-15th Century structure, **Cahir Castle** was skilfully designed by Conor O'Brien to be a state-of-the-art defensive castle. Appearing to grow from the actual rock on which it stands, the castle has been the scene of sieges and bombardments for centuries. The powerful Anglo-Norman family, the Butlers, came into the possession of the castle in 1375. The castle was captured three times in its history: it fell to Devereux, Earl of Essex, in 1599 after it had been battered for three days with artillery; it surrendered without a fight to Inchiquin in 1647; and again to Cromwell in 1650. Over the centuries the Butlers considerably rebuilt and extended their stronghold. However, by 1599, the castle had reached its present appearance, with the only subsequent alterations taking place in the 1840s. In 1961, the last Lord Cahir died and the castle reverted to the State. The castle retains its impressive keep, tower and much of its original defensive structure.



The **Swiss Cottage**, a delightful ornamental cottage, was built in the early 1800s by Richard Butler, first Earl of Glengall. It remains an enduring local attraction in South Tipperary and an iconic image of the Ireland of yore. Based on a design by the famous English Regency architect John Nash and inspired by nature, the cottage's unusual and rustic features include a distinctive thatched roof while its external woodwork resembles branched trees. The nature theme continues throughout the former guest cottage's internal furnishings and wallpaper. Situated on an elevated site with access by stone steps, the Swiss Cottage interior contains a graceful spiral staircase and some elegantly decorated rooms. The wallpaper in the salon, manufactured by the Dufour factory, is one of the first commercially produced Parisian wallpapers.

COMPANY NAME: IRELAND TRAVEL LINKS



Depart Dublin and travel via the **Rock of Cashel** for a tour. The Rock of Cashel is one of Ireland's most visited sites, and is a spectacular and archaeological site. A collection of medieval ecclesiastical buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale. The 12th-century round tower is of the oldest surviving building on the Rock, also include a high cross, and the ruins Romanesque chapel - Cormac's Chapel is one of the earliest, and finest churches built in the Romanesque style. The 13th-century Gothic cathedral is a large cruciform Gothic church without aisles built between 1230 and 1270. Also a 15th-century castle and the Hall of the Vicars is the entry point to the ecclesiastical enclosure. The Hall houses the museum where the original Cross of St. Patrick can be found.

The stunning exhibition brings to life over 800 years of **King John's Castle** and Limerick City's dramatic history all through Touch-screen technology which will connect visitors to tales of siege and warfare. A dazzling array of CGI animations and ghostly projections will be part of the experience. The castle boasts a brand new visitor centre, bringing together the castle's remarkable archaeology and 21st century technology allowing visitors to fully explore and discover King John's Castle. King John's Castle is a 13th century Castle on 'King's Island' in the heart of medieval Limerick City. The Castle overlooks the majestic River Shannon offering



wonderful panoramic views of Limerick City. Discover excavated pre-Norman houses, fortifications, siege mines, and the battlement walks. King John himself also known as Lackland was King of England from April 1199 until his death at the 50 yrs of age in 1216. He was the youngest of 5 sons of King Henry II of England & Eleanor of Aquitaine. He was appointed Lord of Ireland at age 12. He is most well-known for signing the Magna Carta into existence in 1219 which was a pre-cursor to the Bill of Rights as we know it today. He was brother to Richard the Lionheart. History generally describes him as petty, vindictive & childish. He has been cast as a villain in the fictional Robin Hood stories. King John died of dysentery at age 50 in 1216.

Terms & Conditions

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

Tour package covers all transport costs (private guided day tours, airport transfers & rail tickets) It is a requirement that there is a minimum of 2 days private guided touring at each region (4 in total for the tour).

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.
