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# EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

## EXECUTIVE WHISKEY & GOURMET TASTING TOUR SUMMARY

### Arrive and Depart from Shannon Airport

Indulge your culinary senses with this 5 Star Luxury Tour that includes the best places to indulge your taste buds from gourmet foods to the best whiskey's and wine in Ireland. A veritable feast for the senses touring the magnificent South West with its enchanting scenery and breadth taking natural vista's and attractions.

### Day 1 - Castle Day Tour

Touring the Rock of Cashel for a tour, Middleton Distillery & Charles Fort. Lunch @ Chez Hans, Cashel & Dining @ Finns Table, Kinsale.

### Day 2 - Touring West Cork & Kenmare

Depart Kinsale and travel to Franciscan friary of Timoleague, Clonakilty, Drombeg Stone Circle, Glandore, Union Hall, Bantry House & Gardens & Kenmare. Lunch @ The Fish Kitchen, Bantry & Dining @ Mulcahy's, Kenmare.

### Day 3 - Touring Ring of Kerry Highlights

Touring Molls Gap, Ladies View, Killarney National Park, Muckcross House & Gardens, Ross Castle & Dingle. Lunch @ Piano Bar / Bistro @ Lake Hotel, Killarney & Dining @ IDAS, Dingle

### Day 4 - Touring Dingle Peninsula

Touring Fungie Dolphin Tour, Sleah Head Ring (Dunbeg Fort, Beehive Huts, The Blasket Centre, Gallarus Oratory & Kilmalkedar Church). Lunch @ The Stone House & Dining @ The Chart House, Dingle.

### Day 5 - Touring Cliffs of Moher & Burren

Touring Conor Pass, the Cliffs of Moher, The Burren Centre & Perfumery and Poul nabrone Portal Dolmen Tomb. Lunch @ Monks, Ballyvaughan & Dining @ George V Room in Ashford Castle

### Day 6 - Touring Connemara National Park

Touring Killary Fjord, Leenane, Kylemore Abbey & Quiet Man Museum. Lunch @ Cullen's at the Cottage & Dining @ The Dungeon in Ashford Castle.

### Day 7 - Ashford Activities and touring Bunratty & King Johns Castles

Partake in Ashford Castle activities in the morning. Touring Bunratty Castle & Folk Park and King Johns Castles. Lunch @ Moran's on the Weir, Kilcolgan & Dining @ The Oak Room, Adare Manor

### Day 8 - Depart Shannon Airport

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## ACCOMMODATION

### **5 STAR ACCOMMODATION**

**1 x Night @ Perryville House**, Kinsale, Co. Cork. Perryville House, right in the heart of picturesque Kinsale, in the Gourmet Capital of Ireland. This 200 year old town house provides a touch of luxury combined with a homely charm. Decorated in tasteful muted shades it has evolved into a beautiful Guest House, overlooking Kinsale Harbour. Perryville House evokes the sense of old world elegance and relaxed intimacy you cannot help but fall in love with.

**1 x Night @ The Park Hotel**, Kenmare, Co. Kerry. The Kenmare Park Hotel is one of the finest luxury hotels Ireland has to offer, perfectly located in the very heart of Kenmare town centre and set in mature garden grounds. A Condé Nast Traveller Award Winner, this proud family-owned hotel offers a warm and welcoming retreat for guests in search of exceptional comfort with all of those little extra touches.

**2 x Nights @ Pax House**, Dingle, Co. Kerry. Set against an idyllic sea view backdrop, life at Pax House enjoys a pace, rhythm and calmness of its own, that embodies the serenity and physical beauty of Dingle. The smallest of pampering touches, thoughtful service and stunning art, creating the warmth, cosyness and friendliness of a bed and breakfast but also the professionalism of a boutique hotel.

**2 x Nights @ Ashford Castle**, Cong, Co. Mayo. Enjoy your stay at one of the most luxurious 5 Star Castle hotels in Ireland and the world. Discover the exquisite interiors, delicious cuisine, passionate team, wealth of estate activities and state-of-the-art spa. As Ireland's top hotel destination and former home of the Guinness family, enjoy the activities of the 350 acre estate such as Equestrian, Clay shooting, Archery, Boat Cruising, Kayaking, Zip lining Golf and Fishing activities.

**1 x Night @ Adare Manor Resort**, Adare, Co. Limerick. Enjoy your stay at one of the most luxurious 5 Star hotels in Ireland. Newly refurbished, be taken back in time by the opulence that is truly unique for quality, location, service and elegance at Adare Manor.

## 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.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### Day 1 - Castle Day Tour

Arrive at Shannon Airport and travel via the Rock of Cashel for a tour. Travel onwards to Blarney Castle (to kiss the famous Blarney Stone). Tour of Middleton Distillery before travelling onwards to tour Charles Fort outside Kinsale before travelling onwards to final destination of Kinsale to sample the culinary and scenic delights of this harbour town.



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.

### Lunch @ Chez Hans, Cashel

Chez Hans sounds like a member of the Tipperary hurling team. But it's one of Ireland's oldest restaurants. Hans-Peter Matthiae came to Cashel from Paris in 1966, aged just 19. Originally from Germany he worked in the Cashel Palace hotel. Two years later he opened his own restaurant in the former synod hall on Moor Street. Michelin gave him a star in 1983. The star didn't last but the restaurant did.

Travel 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.

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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 final destination of Kinsale and sample the culinary and scenic delights of this harbour town.

### **Dining @ Finns Table, Kinsale**

Finns' Table Restaurant was opened in 2013 by John & Julie Finn who are a husband and wife team in the picturesque medieval fishing town of Kinsale. Finns Table have been recommended by the Michelin Guide. John is the chef running the kitchen and Julie is your welcome at front of house. Their Kitchen has a refined Irish French style of cooking, where classic taste and scent combinations are given a modern twist. The cuisine is adventurous and imaginative without being precious. All the dishes are prepared with daily fresh local ingredients and all the beef, lamb and pork is supplied by John's parents who are the owners of Finn's Butchers in Mitchelstown (Est 1830) hence the meat is only the very best here. Obviously the fish is the freshest being so close to the water. Lobsters and Crab are caught locally, off the Old Head of Kinsale by Yammon O' Neill. Prime fresh fish such as Turbot, John Dory & Hake is sourced daily from trawlers in West Cork.

**Accommodation:** Perryville Guesthouse, Kinsale

### **Day 2 - Touring West Cork & Kenmare**

Depart Kinsale and travel to Franciscan friary of Timoleague, Clonakilty, Drombeg Stone Circle, Glandore, Union Hall, Bantry House & Gardens & Kenmare.



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.

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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.



### **Lunch @ The Fish Kitchen, Bantry**

When talking about our fish they focus on three elements, freshness, simplicity, quality. They do our best not to interfere with the Fish we are serving, simply served with skin side up along with a variety of simple butters or sauces on top or on the side. While geographically in an ideal location to keep the distance between the sea and the plate as short as possible and they also support the Irish fishing fleet by buying as much Irish caught fish as possible. They are exploring new ideas and recently have researched the use of seaweed on our menu and attended BIM courses on seaweed farm management and on growing courses with a view to introducing native seaweeds on to their menu. They have already experimented with Laminaria (Kelp) in Bread, Stocks and in wraps.

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.





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Travel onwards to the beautiful town of **Kenmare** on the Ring of Kerry. Nestling peacefully at the mouth of the Kenmare Bay is Kenmare one of Ireland's loveliest Heritage Towns. From its origins in 1678 the town of Kenmare, Co Kerry, was special. Kenmare is a haven of tranquillity, gourmet food, superb accommodation and breathtaking scenery, in one of the most natural, unspoilt environments in Europe. Tour Kenmare Art Gallery to see how this innovative gallery focuses on contemporary Irish art and, in particular, on the artists of the Beara Peninsula. Visit the Kenmare Lace and Design Centre which hosts an antique lace exhibition, lacemaking demonstrations, lace for sale, lacemaking materials and general haberdashery.

### **Dining @ Mulcahy's, Kenmare**

Established since 1995, Mulcahy's is a place where everybody feels welcome and comfortable. Style of food is strong and bold with emphasis on simplicity. Since opening, Mulcahy's has gained huge support and loyal followers. They are committed to sourcing wild, free range, seasonal and local produce which is then cooked with modern and classical techniques to ensure the quality of the ingredients are paramount. Proudly ranked among the 100 best restaurants Ireland (McKenna Guides) and included in many guide books such as Georgina Campbell and the Michelin Guide.

**Accommodation:** Park Hotel, Kenmare

### **Day 3 - Touring Ring of Kerry Highlights**

Touring Molls Gap, Ladies View, Killarney National Park, Muckcross House & Gardens, Ross Castle & Dingle.

Depart Kenmare and travel over the Macgillycuddy's Reeks Mountains to **Molls gap**, an area and its shop is a panoramic spot visited by thousands of tourists each year. Moll's Gap is named for Moll Kissane who ran a shebeen, a small pub, on a rocky breach during the construction of the original Kenmare Killarney road in the 1820s. She became popular for selling home brewed poitin, whiskey, to the hardy men who worked on the road. into **Killarney National Park**, with its 25,000 acres of woodland and magical mountains, with spectacular views of the Lakes of Killarney. Travel to **Ladies' View**, made famous by Queen Victoria's ladies in waiting in 1831, which has spectacular views of Killarney national park from its perch on the Ring of Kerry. Travel onwards to your final destination in Killarney.



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Travel to the shores of Muckross Lake in Killarney and visit the 15th century tower house **Ross Castle**. It is a typical example of the stronghold of an Irish chieftain in the Middle Ages and is fully restored and furnished with period oak furniture. It is typical of its style, with square bartizans on diagonally opposite corners and a thick end wall containing a tier of chambers and winding stairs. **Muckross House & Gardens**, once visited by Queen Victoria, is situated on the shores of Muckross Lake within the stunning surroundings of Killarney National Park. This magnificent Victorian mansion is one of Ireland's leading stately homes. The elegantly furnished rooms portray the lifestyles of the landed gentry, while downstairs in the basement you can experience the working conditions of the servants employed in the House back in the day. Muckross House is also home to a number of skilled craftworkers, who can be seen using skills in the crafts of weaving, pottery and bookbinding. Many exotic trees and shrubs flourish in the mild climate and sheltered location of the Muckross gardens. Attractive features include a fine collection of rhododendrons and azaleas, an outstanding rock garden on a natural rock outcrop and beautiful tree-fringed lawns.

### **Lunch @ Piano Bar / Bistro @ Lake Hotel, Killarney**

The setting at The Lake Hotel is the perfect backdrop when enjoying good food, drink and company. Guests and non residents can enjoy classic afternoon tea in the Piano Lounge, or a light and more substantial lunch in the Lakeside Bistro. Indulge the senses with an incredible vista of the Muckross Lakes and Killarney National Park while enjoying this fine dining hidden gem just off the thoroughfare of the Ring of Kerry.



Travel onwards to Dingle and go for a tour of **Dingle Crystal** which is a family business specialising in hand-cut Irish crystal. Each piece is handmade by master craftsman Sean Daly at his workshop in Dingle, Co. Kerry. Sean's unique celtic designs are inspired by the rich heritage and breathtaking landscape of Ireland's west coast. All of our crystalware is designed, cut and polished by hand, using traditional techniques. With every step of the production process being carried out in Ireland, Dingle Crystal is a true embodiment of Irish craft. No two pieces are exactly the same and each piece is personally signed by Sean. This is how Sean guarantees a unique and individual piece of Irish crystal to each of his customers. The **Dingle Whiskey Distillery** is not in the business of creating megabrands, nor do they distil for anyone else. Their scale is modest, their approach to what they make is essentially artisan and they have rekindled the tradition of independent distilling in Ireland. Two hundred years ago, this small island had over a hundred officially recognised distilleries; by the turn of this century there were two. The Dingle Distillery welcomes visitors to enjoy a tour of their facility where the entire production process, for all their products, are explained and a gin/vodka sample is provided. The distillery tour will give you an introduction into Irish whiskey and into the Dingle Distillery.

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## **Dining @ IDAS, Dingle**

Idás is a nickname (ida) taking from the owners Grandfather. Idás food endeavors to celebrate the Dingle Peninsula on a plate. Foraging many wild ingredients locally and work constantly with local suppliers and food producers, all the while progressing with the seasons. Marrying both classic and modern cooking techniques we offer well-balanced, clean and interesting flavour profiles with a keen artistic eye on presentation.

**Accommodation:** Pax House, Dingle

## **Day 4 - Touring Dingle Peninsula**

Touring Fungie Dolphin Tour, Sleah Head Ring (Dunbeg Fort, Beehive Huts, The Blasket Centre, Gallarus Oratory & Kilmalkedar Church).



In 1983, an extraordinary and curious visitor decided to visit Dingle Harbour. This amazing Dolphin befriended the local fishermen while they were fishing in Dingle harbour and Bay. They named him "**Fungie**" the Dingle Dolphin. This wild bottlenosed dolphin has remained and has become Dingles most famous resident. Fungie has never been fed by humans in order to induce him to stay or to perform. He thrives on playing around with the Boats that go out on tours to see him, or with any other small craft that comes his way to play. He is approximately 13ft in length and weighs over 250lbs.



Depart Dingle and travel to Mount Eagle on the Dingle peninsula to view **Dunbeg Fort** which is an impressive promontory stone fort. The fort has suffered a lot of damage due to erosion but is still very impressive. Inside the fort is a circular Beehive hut or Clochan with a square interior. The fort has four outer defensive banks and a souterrain about 16 metres long, leading from the front of the outer defenses to the interior. Travel onwards via the Wild Atlantic Way along the Sleah Head Drive. Stop to tour the **Beehive Huts**, the most common surviving house type in Corca Dhuibhne during the Early Medieval period was the clochán (or Beehive Hut as known locally), a round house built using local stone, and roofed either in stone, using the corbelling technique. Many examples can be found in the Ceann Trá area, particularly near Sleah Head and they date from

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the 6th to the 10th or 11th centuries AD. These structures are found either singly, conjoined or three together. These were the houses in which people lived, be they of moderate or even high status, or monks within monasteries. Sometimes underground passages known as souterrains are found associated with them.

### **Lunch @ The Stone House**

The cuisine at the Stonehouse could be best described as Bistro mixed with Irish Traditional. Here you will find exciting, mouth-watering dishes made from the finest local produce. The menu features fresh, locally caught fish; delicious West Kerry breed meats as well as a host of other exciting options. Home-made soups, Seasonal Salad, Dingle Bay Mussels, Goat's Cheese Salad, Dingle Bay Crab Salad and Ballydavid Smoked Salmon offer the perfect meal.



Travel onwards to the **Blasket Centre**. This is a fascinating heritage & cultural centre/museum honouring the unique community who lived on the remote Blasket Islands until their evacuation in 1953. The Centre details the community's struggle for existence, their language and culture, folklore & customs, and their extraordinary literary legacy – with classics such as 'The Islandman', 'Twenty Years A-Growing' and 'Peig'.



Travel onwards to **Gallarus Oratory**, which is the best preserved early Christian church in Ireland. Gallarus Oratory, was built between the seventh and eighth century and is the best preserved early Christian church in Ireland. It represents the apogee of dry-stone corbelling, using techniques first developed by Neolithic tomb makers. The stones were laid at a slight angle, lower on the outside then the inside to allow water to run off. Travel onwards to tour **Kilmalkedar**. Kilmalkedar is a spectacular early-Christian and medieval ecclesiastical site. The ruins are spread across an area of 10 acres. Among them, visitors will enjoy examining the fine 12th-century Hiberno-Romanesque church and several fascinating artefacts, such as an alphabet stone, holed Ogham stone, sundial and large stone cross.

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### **Dinning @ The Chart House, Dingle**

At the Chart House they strive to deliver a memorable dining experience, and for our loyal and regular customer each visit to the Chart House needs to be better than the last. The reason the Chart House has won so many awards and is one of Dingle's best restaurants is that they recognize what happens front of house is equally as important as what happens on the plate. Of course, achieving "Best Restaurant in Dingle and Kerry" is about the food, and Head Chef Noel Enright and his team source only the finest local produce and create menus to reflect what is in season. We firmly believe that when our seafood and meat are prepared and cooked with little fuss and complication and accompanied with appropriate garnish and undertones of exquisite sauces that you have the best result. Chart House is a family-run restaurant and never underestimate the importance of sincere and meaningful hospitality.

**Accommodation:** Pax Guesthouse

### **Day 5 - Touring Cliffs of Moher & Burren**

Depart Dingle and travel over the dramatic Conor Pass and onwards via Tarbert-Kilimer Ferry to the Cliffs of Moher. Stop in the traditional music town of Doolin for lunch. Travel onwards to tour The Burren Centre & Perfumery and Poul nabrone Portal Dolmen Tomb. Travel onwards via Galway to Ashford Castle.



Travel to Ireland's most visited natural attraction, the **Cliffs of Moher**. They stretch for 8km (5miles), as the crow flies, along the Atlantic coast of County Clare in the west of Ireland and reach 214m (702feet) at their highest point at Knockardakin just north of O'Brien's Tower. At the southern end of the Cliffs of Moher stands Hags Head a natural rocky promontory that resembles a seated woman when viewed from the north. In the ancient Gaelic language, the word Mothar means "ruined fort" and a 1st century BC fort stood where Moher tower now stands. Therefore the Cliffs of Moher means the cliffs of the ruined fort and although there is no trace remaining of this two thousand year old fort it has given name to the cliffs which are visited annually by almost one million visitors. The

Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience is located almost midway along these spectacular cliffs and is home to; an environmentally friendly visitor centre set into the hillside, O'Brien's Tower – a 19th century viewing tower, and 800metres of protected cliff side pathways, viewing areas and steps.

### **Lunch @ Monks Bar & Restaurant, Ballyvaughan**

Monks Bar and Restaurant is a family run business nestled on the edge of the scenic village of Ballyvaughan. They have an extension menu to suit all tastes, from succulent meats to locally caught fresh fish. Their award winning seafood chowder and famous home made fish cakes. Situated adjacent to the pier in Ballyvaughan, Monks is the ideal place to enjoy the stunning view of the Burren landscape or just sit back and watch the sun over Galway bay.

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Discover the unique magic of this 'Bhoireann' or 'stony place' region in the **Burren Centre**. This visitor centre lies at the heart of the historic village of Kilfenora. It boasts a fantastic exhibition, an audio-visual theatre, local crafts shop and tea room. The audio visual film, narrated by famous environmentalist Eamon de Buitlear, traces the formation of the Burren 320 million years ago and explains why Alpine, Artic and Mediterranean plants grow side by side in this unique limestone world. Understand how ancient man left his mark on the landscape in the form of the Dolmen Tombs and burial chambers, which still stand today as stone sentinels to the Burren's heritage. Travel onwards to visit the famous **Poulnabrone Portel Dolmen Tomb**. Travel through the rugged Burren landscape on the way to Galway and your final destination today of the magnificent Ashford Castle Estate.

### **Dining @ George V Room in Ashford Castle**

Creative Irish cuisine, inspired use of the finest seasonal ingredients from the West of Ireland and an extensive wine cellar make any stay at Ashford Castle a gourmet's delight. Chef Philippe Farineau, gives fine expression to the dishes offered in the four main dining rooms.

**Accommodation:** Ashford Castle, Cong, Co. Mayo

### **Day 6 - Touring Connemara National Park**

Touring Killary Fjord, Leenane, Kylemore Abbey & Quiet Man Museum.



Travel to the glacial fjord of **Killary**, which acts as a natural border between the two bastions of traditional Ireland County Galway and Mayo. It is 16 kilometres long and in the centre over 45 metres deep. It is one of three glacial fjords that exist in Ireland, the others being Lough Swilly and Carlingford Lough. On its northern shore lies the mountain of Mweelrea, Connacht's highest mountain, rising to 814 metres. To the south rise the Maumturk Mountains and the Twelve Bens. The area contains some of Ireland's most awe-inspiring and dramatic scenery. The

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picturesque village of **Leenane** (Leenaun on Irish signposts) sits at the mouth of Killary harbour, almost dwarfed by the Connemara Mountains surrounding it. Leenane became famous in 1989 when it starred in the film adaption of John B Keane's play *The Field*. Gaynor's pub was the spot where much of the action took place.

Travel onwards to **Kylemore Abbey** and Victorian Walled Garden which is a great destination for a day out in majestic Connemara to rank as an unforgettable memory. The dramatic landscape and iconic image of a gothic castle reflected in a Connemara lake has made Kylemore Abbey world-famous and it is now the largest tourist attraction in the west of Ireland. The Benedictine nuns invite visitors to experience the Victorian atmosphere of the Abbey's restored rooms, miniature gothic church, head gardener's house and garden boy's house. Learn of the tales of tragedy and romance, the engineering initiatives, model farms, royal visits and the Abbey's former role as a girls boarding school.



### **Lunch @ Cullen's at the Cottage**

This traditional thatched cottage, which used to be Cong Cinema, (showing films on Tuesday's and Thursday's, and was the first place to show *The Quiet Man* even before it was shown in Hollywood), today provides a relaxed dining experience with a casual dress code in which to enjoy international and local dishes inspired by our owner Beatrice Tollman, including our delicious signature dish 'Chicken Peri Peri'. It is slow cooked in our rotisserie oven in the main dining area, so mouth-watering aromas greet you as soon as you enter the restaurant.

In 1951 John Ford's greatest movie '**The Quiet Man**' starring John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald was made in the west of Ireland. Much of the film centred around the village of Cong on the Mayo-Galway border. Located by the river at Circular Road, Cong, between actual locations used for the filming, the thatched cottage's ground floor has been designed as an exact replica of 'White-o-Morn' Cottage. Painstaking effort has ensured that all the furnishings, artefacts, costumes etc are authentic reproductions. The four poster bed, tables and chairs, treasured by Mary Kate Danaher, thatched roof, emerald green half-door and whitewashed front combine to charm visitors. The Quiet Man Cottage Museum is a novel concept which will give the visitor a total Quiet Man experience as if they were actually on the movie set.



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### **Afternoon Tea @ The Connaught Room in Ashford**

Afternoon Tea is served on glorious, ornate silver stands. Upholding the tradition that dates back to 1868 at Ashford Castle, indulge in a delicious Afternoon Tea served in The Connaught Room with magnificent views across the gardens and Lough Corrib. Head Pastry Chef, Paula Stakelum, Winner of the Valrhona Pâtisserie Championship 2017, delights guests daily with a selection of tempting treats:

### **Dining @ The Dungeon in Ashford Castle**

Creative Irish cuisine, inspired use of the finest seasonal ingredients from the West of Ireland and an extensive wine cellar make any stay at Ashford Castle a gourmet's delight. Chef Philippe Farineau, gives fine expression to the dishes offered in the four main dining rooms.

After Dinner, head to the Billiards room at the Castle to sample some of Ireland's finest whiskey's. Providing the perfect match for your whiskey and Cigar pairing.

**Accommodation:** Ashford Castle, Cong, Co. Mayo

### **Day 7 - Ashford Activities and touring Bunratty & King Johns Castles**

After a hearty breakfast in the George V Room, partake in Ashford Castle activities in the morning. Depart Ashford and travel to Bunratty Castle & Folk Park and King Johns Castles for tours.



For hundreds of years, the grounds of **Ashford Castle** have provided a vast playground for its owners and their friends. Successive generations of the de Burgo, Bingham, Browne and Guinness families have created one of the finest sporting estates in all of Ireland, if not the world – which is proudly continued to this day. The expansive 350 acre Ashford Estate lends itself perfectly to a range of activities, from country classic pastimes such as horse riding, fishing, falconry and shooting, to more modern activities such as golf, cycling and kayaking. So whether you are the active type or prefer to relax and soak up the scenery, make use of this morning to engage in an activity at Ashford Castle.

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### **Lunch @ Moran's on the Weir, Kilcolgan**

Moran's is a Family Business dating back more than 250 years. In the 1800's it did a flourishing trade when the Weir was a prosperous little port. Today, thanks to the tremendous upsurge of interest in Seafood, Moran's is a must for anybody with an interest in sampling the crustaceous delights of Galway Bay. Moran's serves smoked salmon, crab, prawns, crab claws, Galway Bay oysters and lobster all day. Moran's is famous for Guinness & Fresh Oysters and their famous 7 generation Chowder soup recipe.



Travel onwards to **Bunratty castle & Folk Park**, which was built in 1425, and restored in 1954 to its former Medieval splendour and houses the Bunratty Collection, 450 pieces of Medieval furniture and artefacts. At nighttime, the castle is the impressive setting for its popular Medieval banquets, held year round. The site on which Bunratty Castle stands was in origin a Viking trading camp in 970. The present structure is the last of four castles to be built on the site. Robert De Muscegros, a Norman, built the first defensive fortress (an earthen mound with a strong wooden tower on top) in 1250. At this time Bunratty became a large town and had a populations of about 1,000. Within the grounds is the folk park, where 19th Century

life is vividly recreated. Set on 26 acres, the impressive park features over 30 buildings, including a schoolhouse, post office and doctor's house in a living village setting.

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 Aquitane. 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.



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## COMPANY NAME: IRELAND TRAVEL LINKS

### **Dining @ The Oak Room, Adare Manor**

For freshly brewed coffee or light bites to enjoy alongside a glass of champagne or an aperitif before dinner, The Drawing Room is a luxurious setting overlooking the beautiful formal gardens. Experience a gracious evening of fine-dining by candle light in The Oak Room, where Head Chef Michael Tweedie's tasting menu has distilled the essence of Ireland's best artisan ingredients, paired with Head Sommelier Jurica Gojevic's lovingly curated wine collection. Whatever you might be in the mood for, the talented and passionate culinary team at Adare Manor has perfected a menu to match.

After dinner connoisseurs of fine spirits and imaginative libations will find a warm welcome in The Tack Room, where a menu of savoury snacks and sharing platters are the perfect companion to a world-class whiskey collection and specialty cocktail list.

**Accommodation:** Adare Manor Resort, Co. Limerick

### **Day 8 - Depart Shannon Airport**

In the mornings, the magnificent Gallery offers a breakfast menu designed to give you an inspiring start to the day. If on a later flight the afternoon Tea in The Gallery is a refined indulgence, where expert Head Pastry Chef Xavier Torne has created a divine menu of delightful confections, pastries, and hand-cut sandwiches, served with a selection of exquisite teas from around the world. Travel to the nearby Shannon Airport for departure flight.

### **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 in the costs.**

**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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