



Exploring the Emerald Isle Tour

September 7 - 22, 2012

PROPOSED ITINERARY



Friday Sep 7 – Day 1 Home Town to Dublin

Inflight Meals

We embark upon our exciting journey to Ireland today with included transfers to Pearson International where we will board an Air Transat flight to Dublin. Pick up times will be advised closer to our departure date.

Saturday Sep 8 - Day 2 Dublin at Leisure

D

We meet a local professional Irish city guide and private motor coach for transfer to the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre where you may relax, enjoy a light lunch or tea, visit Ashtown Castle and the Victorian walled garden. Then we're off to our Dublin hotel for two nights.

Sunday Sep 9 – Day 3 In Dublin's Fair City

B, D

After our first Irish breakfast we meet our local city guide for a morning city tour with admission included to St Patrick's Cathedral and Trinity College to see The Book of Kells. The afternoon is at your leisure.

Monday Sep 10– Day 4 Dublin - Wicklow - Waterford

B, D

Today we travel south west of Dublin for a tour of the Irish National Stud. While there we may visit the Japanese Garden and St. Fiachra's Gardens. On our way south to Glendalough and the Visitor Centre, a monastic settlement founded in the 6th century by St. Kevin we travel across the picturesque Wicklow Mountains. Then we head for New Ross where we will follow in the footsteps of a group of Famine emigrants as we board the Dunbrody. A ticket is issued as if it were 1849, and this ticket allocates your space and food rations for the voyage ahead. Afterwards we move on to Waterford where we overnight.

Tuesday Sep 11 – Day 5 Waterford - Cork

B, D

The Rock of Cashel is our first stop today. Here we find remarkable collections of Celtic art and medieval architecture. After a visit to Cobh and the Queenstown Story we end the day with a tour of the Jameson Distillery at Midleton. Cork is our home for two nights.

Wednesday Sep 12 – Day 6 Cork

B, D

This morning we visit Blarney Castle with the opportunity to kiss the 'stone of eloquence' and visit The Blarney Woollen Mills. The afternoon is yours to explore Cork.

Thursday Sep 13 – Day 7 Cork - Ring of Kerry - Killarney

B, D

Ever westward we follow the magnificent route known as the Ring of Kerry and enjoy photo stops at Moll's Gap and Ladies View to see the Lakes of Killarney. Before we reach our hotel in Killarney we will experience the Torc Waterfall. Either tonight or tomorrow night we will attend the National Folk Theatre, Siamsi Tire. This will depend on the show scheduled. We stay two nights in Killarney.

Friday Sep 14 – Day 8 Dingle Peninsula

B, D

We begin the day with a morning excursion around the beautiful Dingle peninsula. Cameras on the ready! We will spend time in quaint Dingle to get a feel for Irish village life. En route we will see Beehive Huts, a hallmark of the area, and visit the Gallarus Oratory, a place of worship for farmers since about 700 AD. We then drop in to the Blasket Island Visitors Centre to learn how the inhabitants eked out a living and eventually had to leave. Depending on how the day goes there should be free time in Killarney.



Saturday Sep 15 – Day 9 Killarney – Galway**B, D**

Before we begin our trek north, we will visit the Kingdom of Kerry Museum. Then we will make our way to Tarbert where we catch the ferry for Killimer across the Shannon River. Further north we visit the Cliffs of Moher and, weather permitting, cruise along the base of the cliffs. We are now on our way to Galway where we will check in to our hotel and then enjoy a medieval feast and entertainment at Dunguaire Castle. We stay one night here.

Sunday Sep 16 – Day 10 Connemara - Westport**B, D**

Today we experience the wilds of Connemara National Park, beginning with a stop at the Connemara Marble Visitor Centre. At Roundstone we'll see how the ancient Irish Bodhran is made. Then we are off to the stunningly beautiful Kylemore Abbey. We overnight in Westport.

Monday Sep 17 – Day 11 Westport – Sligo**B, D**

Today begins with a visit to Ballintubber Abbey and the Celtic Furrow where we learn of the early Christian era and the pilgrimages that began here. Next we will pay our respects to W. B. Yeats, whose grave we will visit at Drumcliff. Our final stop will take us to the Tobernalt Holy well, a place of reflection and nurturing serenity. It predates the advent of Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century. Our home for the night will be in Sligo.

Tuesday Sep 18 – Day 12 Sligo - Derry/Londonderry**B, D**

Our drive this morning hugs the coastline of Donegal Bay and leads us to Beleek where we enjoy a tour of this most distinguished pottery manufacturer to see a demonstration and the exhibition. Further north we arrive at Derry (Londonderry) for a guided tour of the city walls. We overnight here.

Wednesday Sep 19 – Day 13 Derry/Londonderry - Belfast**B, D**

Our first stop this morning is Dunluce Castle, a ruined medieval structure with a visitors' centre, shop and gardens. The remains of a village can still be seen. Further along the coast we come to the internationally famous Giant's Causeway where you can marvel at this natural phenomenon. From here we follow the Antrim Coast road with its spectacular scenery and the famed Glens of Antrim on our way to Belfast for a two-night stay.

Thursday Sep 20 – Day 14 Belfast**B, D**

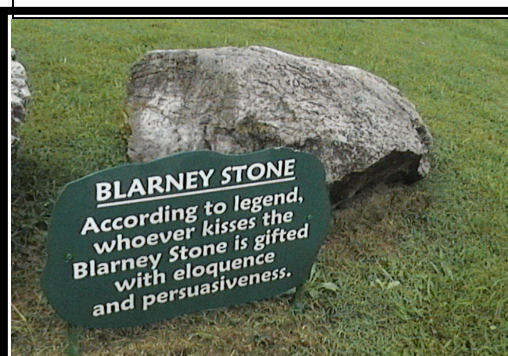
We begin today accompanied by a Belfast city guide for a morning city tour including a tour of Titanic dock and Pump House. This afternoon you are at your leisure.

Friday Sep 21 – Day 15 Belfast - Dublin**B, D**

Today we travel south towards the border. On our way we call in to the visitors' centre at Bru Na Boinne where we learn about the Neolithic monument we are about to see. We will visit either Newgrange or Knowth, famous pre-historic passage tombs that you reach by small minibus. Then it's onwards to Dublin to check in to our hotel after which we will enjoy a traditional Irish entertainment night with dinner.

Saturday Sep 22 – Day 16 Homeward Bound**B, Inflight Meals**

Our tour ends after a final hearty Irish breakfast in our hotel and transfer to Dublin airport for our return flight home. Upon arrival at Pearson International Airport we will be met by our coach which will return us to our home cities.



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Your Lakeshore Tours Exclusive Departure includes:

**Transfers to/from Pearson International
Round Trip Economy Class Airfare Toronto - Dublin
Modern Touring Coach, Hotel Porterage,
First Class Hotel Accommodation for 14 Nights,
14 Full Irish Breakfasts, 13 Table d'hote Dinners,
Special Medieval Dinner at 17th Century Castle,
Driver Guide Gratuity
Fully Escorted by John & Dixie Winkworth**

Pricing

Double Occupancy: \$3,850.00

Single Supplement: \$ 600.00

Plus Taxes of \$425.00



Terms and Conditions

A deposit of \$500.00 per person is due at time of booking plus any insurance requirements. Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure (July 9, 2012). All payments are non refundable. See registration form for cancellation penalties. We carry a full line of travel insurance coverage.

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