



# Ireland for Solo Travelers

8 days | 10 days with Dublin extension

Imagine yourself in a pub: You hear strains of Irish trad, enjoy the crisp carbonation of a freshly poured beer, and belt “sláinte” (pronounced “SLAWN-cha,” if you’re looking to practice) alongside the local crowd. You don’t need a travel pal to bring this vision to life—you just need a spot on this Solo Tour. From St. Patrick’s Cathedral to Blarney Castle to the Cliffs of Moher, this weeklong itinerary will take you to the core of Irish culture. And in true local tradition, you’ll leave having made plenty of new friends. Want to strengthen those bonds? Return to Dublin on the extension and get to know the city—and your companions—on a deeper level.



## Your tour package includes

- 6 nights in a private room at handpicked hotels
- 6 breakfasts
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 beer tasting
- 4 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- St. Patrick’s Cathedral
- Guinness Brewery
- Temple Bar district
- Rock of Cashel
- Blarney Castle
- Cliffs of Moher
- The Burren
- Galway Bay

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you’ll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets with some hills and stairs.

## Group size

15–28

# Ireland for Solo Travelers

8 days | 10 days with Dublin extension

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Dublin today.

---

## County Dublin → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in County Dublin

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Fáilte! (Pronounced “FALL-cha,” this expression means “welcome” in Irish, and you might hear it a fair bit over the next few days.) Head to your hotel and settle in, then get to know your Tour Director and fellow solo travelers over a welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Dublin & Guinness Brewery

*Included meals: breakfast*

Settled by the Gaels and disputed over centuries by the Vikings and Anglo-Normans, Dublin traces its history back more than 1,300 years. Today, you'll peel back some of the Irish capital's layers on a comprehensive tour, led by a local expert.

- Stop in Phoenix Park, the largest enclosed public park in any European capital city. First established as a royal hunting ground by government decree in 1662, this 1,750-acre green space today houses Áras an Uachtaráin—the presidential residence.
- Walk through Old Dublin, then step into St. Patrick's Cathedral, the country's largest church. Founded in 1191, it serves as the national cathedral for the Church of Ireland—although, interestingly, it isn't the seat of a Roman Catholic bishop.
- Traverse Dublin's city center, passing 17th-century St. Stephen's Green as you go. Afterward, take some time to admire the Georgian architecture of Merrion Square. Another garden area in the heart of Dublin, it's been called home by some of Ireland's foremost writers—Oscar Wilde and W.B. Yeats among them.
- See the dignified façade of Trinity College—Ireland's oldest university—before

walking by Grafton Street, Dublin's premier shopping zone. As you go, see if you can spot the Molly Malone statue, a bronze sculpture dedicated to the protagonist of a popular Irish folk song.

This afternoon, pay a visit to St. James's Gate—site of the legendary 260-year-old brewery behind Guinness dry stout—and take a self-guided tour of the Guinness Storehouse.

- Explore the Irish brand's roots and growth through a series of exhibits highlighting its origins, advertising, and more.
- Learn how to pour a perfect pint of Guinness, straight from the tap. Then, head up to the top floor and enjoy your beer while soaking in 360-degree views of Dublin. Oh, and have a proper look around before taking your first sip: Draught Guinness tastes best when you give it a minute to settle.

---

## County Cork → 2 nights

### Day 4: County Cork via Kilkenny & Rock of Cashel

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Make your way to Ireland's largest region: County Cork, a 2,900-square-mile tract of rolling hills and rugged mountains. En route, make a pair of detours into the Irish countryside.

- First, head into County Kilkenny and stop at its namesake town. Briefly the capital of Ireland in the 17th century, Kilkenny lays claim to the country's best-preserved medieval town. Have a look around, then continue on to Kilkenny Castle. This imposing fortress was built along the River Nore in 1260, restored more than 700 years later, and now hosts more than one million annual visitors.
- Next, drive southwest through the lush fields of the Golden Vale into County Tipperary for a tour of the iconic Rock of Cashel. Home to more than 1,000 years of history, this 360-foot-tall outcrop guards a collection of Celtic, Christian, and Viking ruins and is one of Ireland's premier attractions.

Later, sit down with your group for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 5: Blarney Castle

*Included meals: breakfast*

Now one of Ireland's most famous tourist sites, Blarney Castle was first built in 1210, then rebuilt in 1446 as a stronghold of the local MacCarthy of Muskerry dynasty. Today, you'll set out into the Irish countryside and visit this famed fortress, completing a popular quest in the process: planting a peck on the Blarney Stone. Originally added as a defensive structure, this slab of limestone supposedly grants all who kiss it “the gift of gab.” Stretch out over the parapet and give it a smooch—then let us know how you feel!

Cap your day by adding an evening excursion to the historic town of Kinsale and enjoy walking winding streets and tucking into a traditional Irish meal. Need some alone time? Spend the night in or take some free moments to explore the neighborhood around your hotel.

+ An Evening in Kinsale

---

## County Galway → 2 nights

### Day 6: County Galway via the Cliffs of Moher & the Burren

*Included meals: breakfast*

Board your bus and roll north to County Galway, a beautiful lake-dotted region with a backstory to match. Before arriving in Galway proper, stop to enjoy some of the best views on the Emerald Isle.

- Redefine “taking the scenic route” with a quick detour into County Clare and a walk along the mesmerizing Cliffs of Moher. Sheer cliffs stretching into the distance, crashing waves below—you know this one.
- Drive on through the Burren. Distinct from the lush greens that typify the rest of the Irish landscape, greys dominate this limestone plateau, punctuated by bursts of wildflowers. Botanists will surely delight in this journey: More than 70% of Ireland's flower species grow here.

Arrive in Galway, then let your Tour Director take the lead on a walking tour of the city's highlights.

- Stroll past a trio of Galwegian icons: Lynch's Castle, a castle-turned-bank that dates to the

16th century; the rustic home of “Ireland’s most prestigious” troupe, the Druid Theatre Company; and John F. Kennedy Memorial Park, a popular green space better known to locals (and the world) as Eyre Square.

- Get a grasp of Galway’s Norman history by viewing its medieval walls—12th-century fortifications that once encircled the city—and the Spanish Arch. First erected in 1584 as an extension of Galway’s protective walls, its name alludes to the Spaniards who moored their ships and lived in the area.
- Peruse authentic Claddagh (said “CLA-da”) rings in a local shop. Steeped in legend and symbolism, these pieces of jewelry have been produced in their current guise—two hands clasping a crowned heart—since at least 1700 and are inextricably linked to Galway.

#### Day 7: Free day in County Galway

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

For architecture and vistas plucked out of a fantasy novel, you’ll want to come along on our visit to Kylemore Abbey and Connemara National Park. If you’d rather get to know Galway a bit better, spend a free day on your own: The city was named the European Capital of Culture in 2020—there’s plenty to see and do! Tonight, rejoin your group for a farewell dinner at a local Galway pub, complete with traditional Gaelic music and good craic. (Pronounced “crack,” that’s the Irish term for fun and entertainment).

+ Kylemore Abbey & Connemara National Park

---

## Flight Home

#### Day 8: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to Dublin’s airport for your flight home or admire more of the Irish capital’s treasures—like a castle that locals say rivals Versailles—on your trip’s extension.

*Please note: Some airport transfers may leave very early in the morning to accommodate return flights.*

---

#### + Dublin extension

You already got a glimpse of the Irish capital at the beginning of your trip—now, get the full picture. On this extension, you and your fellow travelers will have plenty of time to explore Dublin at your leisure. And between a visit to the

ancient abbey of Glendalough and a pair of can’t-miss excursions, you’ll get to check out more local landmarks (and have a chance to pick your Tour Director’s brain for recommendations).

---

## Dublin → 2 nights

#### Day 8: Dublin via Glendalough

*Included meals: breakfast*

Before arriving in Dublin, traverse County Wicklow and marvel at some of Ireland’s wildest mountain scenery. Then, stop in Glendalough: One of Ireland’s foremost historic sites, this glacial valley cradles a sixth-century monastic settlement and abbey founded by the hermit Saint Kevin.

- Enter Wicklow Mountains National Park—one of six such preserves in the country—and make your way to the Glendalough Visitor Centre. After getting situated, explore the ancient monastery, roaming ruins like the Round Tower, the Gateway, and St. Kevin’s Cross.

Continue to Dublin, then set out with your groupmates for a traditional dinner, served with beer or wine and accompanied by Irish song and dance. Or, if you’d prefer, enjoy a free evening to yourself, roaming the city’s lanes in search of the perfect place for a nightcap.

+ Traditional Irish Dinner & Show

#### Day 9: Free day in Dublin

*Included meals: breakfast*

Head back into County Wicklow for a day on the immaculately manicured grounds of Powerscourt Estate—or take the free time to discover even more of Dublin.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink with your group and celebrate a trip well-spent.

+ Powerscourt Estate & Gardens

---

## Flight Home

#### Day 10: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/IR6](https://goaheadtours.ca/IR6) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 5: An Evening in Kinsale

\$149CAD/\$159CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Your evening begins with a visit to the star-shaped Charles Fort, specifically designed to withstand the devastating impact of cannon fire. Uncover the fort's long history with your Tour Director before making your way to the nearby harbor town of Kinsale. A little village with a big past, this quaint community was the site of the 1601 Battle of Kinsale, a major turning point in the Nine Years' War. Take time to explore this historic town's narrow winding streets, artsy shops, and lively bars on your own before rejoining the group for dinner in a traditional Irish restaurant.

## Day 7: Kylemore Abbey & Connemara National Park

\$119CAD/\$129CAD\* (9 hours, departs in the morning)

Make your way to the island village of Cong, situated on the border of counties Galway and Mayo. Here, enjoy free time to stroll through the town's charming streets, catching glimpses of the nearby Ashford Castle. Then, continue on to Kylemore Abbey, a Benedictine convent founded in 1920 on the grounds of Kylemore Castle. Here, you'll have time to explore the abbey's interior and walled Victorian gardens. After free time for lunch on your own, take a scenic drive through the Irish countryside, passing Connemara National Park, one of the country's most beautiful and unspoiled places. Make photo stops in the Inagh Valley and at the Maam Cross before returning to Galway.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 8: Traditional Irish Dinner & Show

\$159CAD/\$169CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Enjoy this special evening of Irish food, music, and live entertainment. Dinner will be served first, giving you a taste of the country's traditional dishes. You'll then be treated to a live show of Irish music and dance. Join in the fun as you enjoy a merry and memorable night.

Please note: The specific venue and day of the week for this excursion may change due to availability. This excursion is seasonal and runs from April through October.

### Day 9: Powerscourt Estate & Gardens

\$85CAD/\$95CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Named the third most beautiful in the world by National Geographic, the Italianate gardens of Powerscourt Estate rival even the immaculately manicured flower beds of Versailles. Spend time wandering through these sprawling grounds and exploring the Palladian-style country house that lies at the heart of the property. Once a 13th-century castle, this opulent home underwent extensive renovations in the 1700s to transform it into the grand hall it is today.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)