



# A Week in Ireland: Dublin, Cork & Galway

#### 8 days | 11 days with London extension

From the Irish people's sparkling wit and inviting pub culture to the isle's incredible emerald landscapes, this small country packs quite a punch. Get to know this beautiful island on a tour of its leading cities and natural wonders, from the rocky Burren to the Cliffs of Moher.



#### Your tour package includes

6 nights in handpicked hotels 6 breakfasts 3 dinners with beer or wine 5 sightseeing tours Expert Tour Director & local guides Private deluxe motor coach

#### Included highlights

St. Patrick's Cathedral Temple Bar district Cobh Heritage Centre Blarney Castle The Burren Cliffs of Moher Galway

#### 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

15-38

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#### $\textbf{Overnight Flight} \rightarrow 1 \text{ night}$

#### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Dublin today.

#### County Dublin $\rightarrow$ 2 nights

#### Day 2: Arrival in County Dublin

Included meals: welcome dinner Welcome to Ireland! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

#### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Dublin

Included meals: breakfast

Take a comprehensive tour of Ireland's capital city with a local expert leading the way.

- Stop in Phoenix Park, site of the presidential residence, and pass by the Guinness Brewery
- Step inside the soaring St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ireland's largest church
- Pass St Stephen's Green and admire the Georgian architecture of Merrion Square as you go
- See Trinity College and walk past Grafton Street to the Molly Malone statue, ending in the Temple Bar district

Enjoy a free afternoon in Dublin or add an excursion.

+ Glendalough

#### $\textbf{County Cork} \rightarrow 2 \text{ nights}$

#### Day 4: County Cork via Cork & Cobh

Included meals: breakfast, dinner Make your way to County Cork, stopping along the way in Cork and Cobh.

- Wander along Cork's web of canals to the city center
- Explore the city of Cork and enjoy free time to walk through the English Market, a traditional food hall
- Visit the Cobh Heritage Centre to see exhibits that highlight the story of Irish emigration over the past 150 years

Later, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

#### Day 5: Blarney Castle

Included meals: breakfast

Head into the Irish countryside to climb to the top of Blarney Castle and kiss the famed Blarney Stone, which is said to grant the "gift of gab." Enjoy a free evening in County Cork or add an excursion. + An Evening in Kinsale

#### County Galway $\rightarrow$ 2 nights

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

Included meals: breakfast Head north to County Galway, taking time to view spectacular scenery en route.

- Walk along the mesmerizing coastline of the Cliffs of Moher
- Pass through the Burren, a unique limestone plateau where fields of rock are dotted with wildflowers

Arrive in Galway and admire some of the city's highlights on a walking orientation with your Tour Director in the lead.

- Stroll past Lynch's Castle, the Druid Theatre Company and the broad expanse of Eyre Square
- View the city's medieval walls and Spanish
  Arch
- Peruse authentic Claddagh rings in a local shop

Enjoy a free evening in County Galway or add an excursion.

+ An Evening in Galway: Pub Dinner & Music

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

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner Spend a free day in County Galway or add an excursion.

Later, celebrate your trip with your group during a farewell dinner.

+ Kylemore Abbey & Connemara National Park

#### **Flight Home**

#### Day 8: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Dublin airport for your flight home or continue on to London, England. Please note: some transfers to the airport may leave very early in the morning to accommodate return flights.

#### + London extension

Mind the gap, get in the queue, ask for bangers with your mash—now you're ready for London! Fly here and spend extra time in the bustling English capital, taking in the sights alongside a local expert.

#### $\textbf{London} \rightarrow 3 \text{ nights}$

#### Day 8: Flight to London

Included meals: breakfast Fly to London, England this morning.

#### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of London

Included meals: breakfast View the regal landmarks of England's vibrant and cosmopolitan capital on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Pass the grand Trafalgar Square and Baroquestyle St. Paul's Cathedral, perched atop Ludgate Hill
- See Westminster Abbey, the setting for royal coronations, weddings, and funerals
- View icons like Big Ben, the London Eye, Tower Bridge, and the Tower of London
- Stop by Buckingham Palace, where you may catch the Changing of the Guard

Spend a free afternoon in London or add an excursion.

+ Windsor Castle

#### Day 10: Free day in London

Included meals: breakfast Enjoy a free day in London or add an excursion. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Stonehenge & Oxford

#### **Flight Home**

#### Day 11: 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/IRL | 1-800-754-5066** 

#### Day 3: Glendalough

\$69CAD/\$79CAD\* (5 hours, departure time varies) County Wicklow has some of the wildest and most spectacular mountain scenery in Ireland, as well as many of the country's most important historic sites. Journey through Wicklow's captivating landscapes to Glendalough, which became famous throughout Europe as a center of Christian learning. Saint Laurence O'Toole became the Abbot of Glendalough in 1154 and worked to bring the Irish Church closer to the Roman Church. You'll learn more about O'Toole, who went on to become the Archbishop of Dublin, and his work in Glendalough as you visit St. Kevin's Cross, the remains of the sixth-century cathedral, and the remarkable Round Tower. Your Tour Director will lead you on a tour of the site, and then you'll enjoy free time.

#### 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 6: An Evening in Galway: Pub Dinner & Music

\$69CAD/\$79CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Tonight, head to a local pub in Galway to do as the Irish do and enjoy an evening filled with food, beer or wine, and music. As you enjoy a three-course dinner you'll listen to traditional Gaelic music. Raise a glass and shout sláinte (that's how the Irish say cheers) as you enjoy the evening with your group.

#### 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 9: Windsor Castle

\$175CAD (5 hours, departs in the afternoon) Led by a Blue Badge Guide, you'll travel to Windsor for a guided tour of the world's largest and longestinhabited castle. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, Windsor has been the British Royal Family's preferred retreat for the past 900 years. Step inside the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel, where knighting ceremonies of the Most Noble Order of the Garter take place. View the exhibit of royal treasures within the castle. You'll then have time to stroll through the town of Windsor and have a look at Eton College, a prestigious prep school attended by Princes William and Harry. Please note: When the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Wednesday, entrance will be replaced by an excursion to Hampton Court. For any departures where the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Tuesday, the excursion will be moved to another day on tour or cancelled. Additionally, St. George's Chapel is closed to the public on Sundays. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

#### Day 10: Stonehenge & Oxford

\$190CAD (9.5 hours, departs in the morning) Pay a visit to Oxford, home to one of the most prestigious universities in the world. You'll admire the charming city's spire-studded architecture and learn more about its academic legacy during a visit to New College at Oxford University. Founded in the 14th century, this college is one of the oldest institutions in the city, and you'll discover its extensive history during your visit. Then, enjoy free time for lunch before continuing on to Stonehenge, perhaps England's most mysterious landmark. The origin and purpose of this ring of stones, which dates back an estimated 5,000 years, is unknown, though most believe it was a temple and observatory. Take some time to explore the intriguing stone formations and visit the newly opened exhibition and visitor center before heading back to London. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

\*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