

DISCOVER IRELAND

with Aiken Chamber Of Commerce

8 DAY TOUR **AUGUST 8, 2023**

ATLANTA • IRELAND • ATLANTA

This is the perfect introduction for first time visitors to Ireland. Join your group as you discover Irish cities and sites!

Atlanta

\$ 3555

Single Supp.

\$ 549*

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore Ireland's exuberant capital city, Dublin
- Learn to pour a pint in one of Ireland's oldest Pubs
- Visit the medieval Blarney Castle and kiss the famed Blarney Stone
- Explore the lunar-like Burren region and see the majestic Cliffs of Moher



Discover Ireland is the perfect tour for visitors hoping to explore the beautiful Emerald Isle from one location, no need to check in and check out every day and no hassle of packing and unpacking. Guests will see the historic and bustling capital city of Dublin before travelling westwards to see some of the country's beautiful and unspoiled countryside; from scenic County Limerick to the lunar-like Burren region and the legendary Cliffs of Moher. This 8-day tour encompasses some of Ireland's most dramatic scenery and will give visitors a true flavour of this vibrant and historic country.



TOUR LODGING INFO:

06 Nights' Accommodation + 1 overnight in Flight
Accommodation will be provided on double occupancy basis

CITIES	NIGHTS	DELUXE HOTEL
Limerick	06 Nights	George Hotel

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- International roundtrip airfare Atlanta
- 6 nights accommodation on double occupancy basis at Deluxe hotel or similar
- Daily Full Irish breakfast
- 6 Dinners
- Transportation in a modern motorcoach with a driver/guide
- Tours and sightseeing as per the itinerary
- Portorage for 1 piece of luggage per person in/out of hotels
- Service charges and taxes
- 1 checked in luggage per person
- All Air taxes and fuel Surcharges
- All local applicable taxes

TOUR ITINERARY:

DAY 01: ATLANTA

Make your own way to Atlanta Airport for your international flight to Dublin. Enjoy inflight meals and services.

DAY 02: DUBLIN ARRIVAL (-/-/D)

On arrival at Dublin International Airport you will meet your driver and guide. Depart on a Panoramic City Tour through Dublin. You will visit the elegant Georgian squares, famous for its architecture and of course its famous doors. You will stop at Trinity College for a visit, with the 8th century Book of Kells and the long room with its 200,000 books. Continue to St Patrick's Cathedral. Built in 1192, it is one of Ireland's largest Cathedrals made famous by its former dean Jonathan Swift, author of "Gulliver's Travels." Visit Jameson Distillery Bow St, where you will enrich your knowledge of world-famous Irish whiskey and learn the history of the iconic Irish brand as you explore the distillery and listen to commentary from your guide. You will also see Christchurch, built by the Anglo-Norman's in 1172 to replace an earlier Church built by the Vikings in 1038, on your way to the Phoenix Park with its many monuments including the Papal cross. Return to the city center via the Quays, passing by the Guinness brewery, and Collins Barrack, now part of the national museum, before arriving back into O'Connell Street and the city center.

Enjoy some time for lunch before continuing to the West of Ireland. Dinner & overnight in Limerick.

DAY 03: LIMERICK - ADARE (B/-/D)

This morning travel to Adare, regarded as one of Ireland's most picturesque villages, is a small village with thatched cottages dotted throughout the town. These were created by the 3rd Earl of Dunraven in the 1820's for his estate workers. Today they are mostly used as craft shops or restaurants. No visitor should leave without a visit to the Trinitarian Abbey, The Wishing Pools or partaking of a drink in the famous Dunraven Arms hotel. The village has a Desmond castle and a Manor, once the home of Lord Dunraven ~ today it is the 5-star Adare Manor Hotel.

In the afternoon visit the Foynes Flying Boat Museum which was from 1939 to 1945 Foynes the center of the aviation world for air traffic between the United States and Europe. The museum features the original Terminal Building including the authentic 1940's cinema; the Radio and Weather Rooms, complete with transmitters, receivers and Morse code equipment. The exhibits feature an introduction to the first transatlantic passenger service from Foynes during the war years and the only full-sized replica B314 flying boat. Irish Coffee was invented in Foynes. Chef Joe Sheridan made the first in 1942 to warm up some damp and miserable passengers. Since then, Irish Coffee has become one the most popular welcoming drinks in the world. The Brendan O'Regan Restaurant sells biscuits & snacks, coffee and tea and of course Irish Coffee!

Overnight and dinner in Limerick



DAY 04: Limerick (B/-/D)

Travel to Tipperary via the town of Cahir and enjoy a photo stop at Cahir Castle

Superbly set on a rocky island in the River Suir in Cahir town, County Tipperary, this impressive 15th century castle - the largest of its period in Ireland - was considered impregnable until the advent of heavy cannon. Once the stronghold of the powerful Butler family, the castle retains its keep, tower and much of its original defensive structure. The origins of the castle are traced back to the third century when a Dun (earthen fort) was built upon the rocky island. This gave the town of Cahir its original name "Dun Iascaigh" (town of the fish fort).

Continue to the Rock of Cashel for a visit. Possibly the most photographed site in Ireland, the Rock of Cashel towers over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone. Once the seat of the Kings of Munster. St. Patrick visited the rock in 450, while Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. Granted to the church in the twelfth century, by the O'Brien clan, today the impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, a cathedral, a twelfth century Romanesque chapel and high crosses. The Vicars Choral has been recently restored and its basement houses a small museum of artifacts found on the site. One of the leading visitor attractions in Ireland, in 2011 it was visited by Queen Elizabeth II on her historic first visit to the Republic of Ireland.

Overnight in Limerick

DAY 05: THE BURREN – CLIFFS OF MOHER (B/-/D)

This morning you will drive to the coast and visit the Cliffs of Moher. Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren Area, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, to entertain his lady friends. Visit the Atlantic Edge, it is the exciting new

interpretive centre at the Cliffs of Moher and is built into the natural landscape. The centre is a huge domed cave that contains images, exhibits, displays & experiences exploring different elements of the mighty Cliffs of Moher: Ocean, Rock, Nature and Man.

After visit Doolin Music House. The owner talks and discusses the history of traditional Irish music and plays great tunes together with his friend James Devitt. You will enjoy the experience of visiting a local home, enjoying local company and listening to a good traditional music session around the fire. Sheila is an artist and her works surround the rooms in the house creating a truly art home atmosphere.

In the afternoon you will travel through the Burren Region on your way to Galway. The Burren, part of which forms the 100 square km Burren National Park, is a unique place. It is a Karst limestone region of approximately 300 sq. km. It is composed of limestone pavements, which have been eroded to a distinctive pattern. The Burren contains dozens of megalithic tombs and Celtic crosses as well as a ruined Cistercian Abbey dating back to the 12th century.

On arrival in Galway enjoy a Panoramic City Tour. Galway City at the mouth of Galway Bay is both a picturesque and lively city with a wonderful avant-garde culture. The city has many relics of its medieval past and is worth taking time to explore. It has changed considerably over the last number of years and features a fascinating juxtaposition of new and ancient architecture. The center of the city is conveniently compact enough to ramble around comfortably.

Enjoy free time at leisure for personal shopping and sightseeing in Galway before returning to Limerick.

Overnight and dinner in Limerick

DAY 06: BLARNEY - COBH (B/-/D)

Depart your hotel in Limerick and travel south to the town of Cobh. Cobh began to develop at the end of the 18th century when Cork was used as a harbor for British military ships. Transatlantic ships such as the Queen Mary or the Queen Elizabeth used to stop in Cobh. Thousands of Irish emigrants also transited through Cobh. Today it is a pleasant town; its streets climb the steep slope of a hill, the top of which is crowned by the very fine St. Coleman's Cathedral which has a carillon of 47 bells.



In Cobh visit the Titanic Experience. Situated in the original offices of The White Star Line, the location marks the departure point for the last 123 passengers who boarded the Titanic on its fateful maiden voyage to America. Our story is told using innovative audio visual technology bringing our characters to life through cinematic shows, scenes, sets, holographic imagery and touch screen technology.

Enjoy some free time in Cobh for lunch under own arrangements. Continue towards Cork City and on to a visit of the Blarney Castle. An ancient stronghold of the McCarthy's, Lords of Muskerry, it is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and indeed one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney stone, The Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed, to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the truth behind the legend. The Castle gardens covering 60 acres of land are under constant change and over the past few years, a water garden, fern garden and poison garden have been developed and are all open to the visitor.

Before returning to Limerick take your time for some shopping at the Blarney Woollen Mills.

Overnight and dinner in Limerick

DAY 07: DINGLE PENINSULA (B/-/D)

Today enjoy a full day touring of the Dingle Peninsula. Some of the finest coastal scenery to be seen in Ireland can be found in West Kerry, on the Dingle Peninsula, the most northern of the Kerry Peninsulas. This peninsula is famous for its Celtic, pre-Christian monuments and Christian churches. It is also a 'Gaeltacht' (Irish speaking) area, where the Irish language and traditional ways of life are preserved. Dingle town itself is a thriving fishing town and offers plenty of opportunity for shopping or simply savoring the atmosphere of a typical country Irish town with its plentiful pubs, narrow streets and busy harbor. The road around the Peninsula is truly spectacular. It passes through a chain of Mountains and Inch, a long beach bordered by dunes and made famous by David Lean's movie "Ryan's daughter," admire the Iveragh Peninsula and Rossbeigh Beach. From Dingle, drive around the coast to Sleah Head. Here the blue of the marine landscape surrounds the Blasket Islands,

deserted since 1953. In the distance are the two rocky Blasket islands, where the ruins of an early Christian Monastery can be found. The Dingle Peninsula will charm you with its villages painted in bright colors and will bewitch you with the dramatic beauty of its landscapes.

During your tour visit the Blasket Island Heritage Centre, a celebration of the story of the Blasket Islanders. It celebrates the unique literary achievements of the island writers ~ native language, culture and tradition. Sadly the Great Blasket was abandoned in 1953 and this caused the decline of its once vibrant population. The center provides an incidental showcase of marvellous stained glass, ceramics and weaving. Enjoy a medieval Banquet at Bunratty Castle, built in the 15th century by the Earl of Thomond, stands on the banks of the Raithe River in County Clare. The Earl was known for his generosity and his lavish banquets. The entertainment today is provided by the superb Bunratty Singers & is a compliment to the lively mead reception, a four-course meal & of course good wine. Guests are invited to enjoy an unforgettable evening & take a true step back in time to Medieval Ireland.

Overnight in Limerick

DAY 08: LIMERICK – ATLANTA (B/-/-)

Today, after breakfast, you will be taken to Dublin airport to check in for your onward flight.

TOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Items of a personal nature, tips & gratuities
- Visa fees if applicable
- Optional tours
- Travel insurance
- All items not mentioned as included



Visit the online tour website by scanning this QR code with your mobile device.

A \$500 deposit holds your place!