

Insight Vacations: Country Roads of Ireland - end Belfast, Summer 2020

Day 1 - Welcome to Dublin.

On arrival at Dublin airport, transfers leave for your hotel at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00. Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner with the opportunity to mingle and get to know each other over a meal with wine.(Dinner with Wine)

Accommodations: Clayton Hotel Burlington Road, Dublin.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Day 2 - In Dublin's Fair City.

Become acquainted with Dublin's elegant squares during an orientation of the city. Discover Custom House, Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Enjoy your VIP priority entrance to the 9th century Book of Kells and a walk through the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College accompanied by a university insider, who will share their insights into modern life and the establishment's impressive history. The afternoon is free to explore.(Breakfast)

Accommodations: Clayton Hotel Burlington Road, Dublin.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 - A Journey from Dublin to Cork.

In the morning, visit one of the country's main racehorse breeding centres. Continue to the acclaimed 100 year old Japanese Gardens where you can 'journey through life' during a walk through the beautiful surrounds. Travel to the medieval city of Kilkenny, home of the world's fastest field game. The ancient Celtic sport of Hurling is over 3,000 years old and Ireland's national sport. Meet a player who will share his passion as you test your skill during a lesson. Continue through Cahir and see its imposing 13th century castle, featured in the film 'Excalibur', on the way to Cork. On arrival, your Travel Director will show you around the compact university city, with its vibrant waterfront and grand Georgian parades.(Breakfast)

Accommodations: Maldron Hotel South Mall, Cork.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 - Across the Mountains to Killarney.

Travel to the ruined Blarney Castle. Will you hang upside down from the ramparts to kiss the stone and ensure a lifetime of eloquence? Or enjoy a sensory walk in the extensive and varied estate gardens. Travel across the majestic Derrynasaggart Mountains to the peaceful town of Killarney. For your Farm-to-Table dining experience, enjoy some Irish home cooking in the kitchens of chef John Sheehan. Join John and his wife, Freda for drinks and a personal insight into classic Irish recipes that are loved throughout the world. Then, settle down for a night of great food and drink in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.(Breakfast / Dinner with Wine)

Accommodations: Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Day 5 - Ring of Kerry Experience.

Start your day with Insight Choice. Choose between a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys or join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and past the grounds of Ross Castle, admiring the incredible scenery of the National Park. While there aren't any mountains to climb, walkers should be fit, have good walking shoes or boots, sunscreen and rain gear. Take a leisurely excursion around the magnificent Ring of Kerry. Here, mountains, valleys, lakes and sea blend into a landscape that is breathtaking beyond words. Journey past lush lakelands and around towering cliffs as you appreciate sweeping sea views. Continue through delightful villages like Sneem and cross the peat bogs of the Black Mountains to Moll's Gap to admire Queen

Victoria's Ladies View. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Maybe take the opportunity to hire a bicycle and enjoy one of the many scenic trails around the lake or through the National Park.(Breakfast)

Accommodations: Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 - Around the Dingle Peninsula.

Continue driving with views of wide skies, peaceful towns and coastal scenery of the Dingle Peninsula - the setting for the film Ryan's Daughter. Drive to dramatic Sleat Head at the peninsula's far end, before reaching your hotel on the shores of Dingle harbour. With the evening at leisure, why not treat yourself to a relaxing experience at the hotel's spa? Offering holistic and therapeutic treatments, the Peninsula Spa is the perfect place to unwind after a busy day of exploring the coast.(Breakfast)

Accommodations: Skellig Hotel, Dingle.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 - The Cliffs of Moher and Galway.

Journey to the Visitor Centre at the 700-foot Cliffs of Moher. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Clare Coast before a delightful drive through the strange, rocky landscape of the Burren to Galway Bay. On arrival, see the Lynch Memorial and Church of St. Nicholas, where Christopher Columbus reputedly prayed before his voyages to America. See the Spanish Arch and Eyre Square, dedicated to the late US President, John F. Kennedy.(Breakfast / Dinner)

Accommodations: Connemara Coast Hotel, Galway.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 - Free day Galway or Aran Islands.

Spend a day at leisure to relax and enjoy Galway. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to the Aran Islands - a genuine highlight of the Wild Atlantic Way. With their cliffs and spectacular coastal views, the islands are a true Irish experience.(Breakfast)

Accommodations: Connemara Coast Hotel, Galway.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 9 - Londonderry.

Continue on to County Sligo, stopping at a peaceful churchyard in Drumcliffe to visit the final resting place of Ireland's famous poet, William Butler Yeats. Admire the Blue Stack Mountains of Donegal as you cross into Northern Ireland bound for the ancient walled city of 'Derry.' What better way to experience sightseeing than with one of Northern Ireland's best storytellers, Ronan, as he takes you on a tour inside the city walls, still topped with cannons. Walk down steep Shipquay Street, with its elegant Georgian houses, to the Gothic Guildhall.(Breakfast / Dinner)

Accommodations: Maldron Hotel Derry, Londonderry.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 - Walk in the Giant's Steps.

Journey to the legendary Giant's Causeway, a geological masterpiece created by the cooling of lava which burst through the earth's crust millions of years ago. Next, prepare yourself for miles of breathtaking beauty as you travel along the road clinging to the Antrim Coast. Continue onto your hotel, overlooking Ballygally Bay. For those who are brave enough, perhaps check out The Ghost Room, in one of the castle's turrets? In the evening, please join us for a finale Celebration Dinner, where old-fashioned hospitality is blended with good food and wine for an experience that delights the senses.(Breakfast / Dinner with Wine)

Accommodations: Ballygally Castle.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Day 11 - The Antrim Coast to Belfast.

Continue around the Antrim Coast, past the huge Norman castle at Carrickfergus, to arrive in the Northern Ireland capital of Belfast. Meet Hilda, your Local Expert, for a passionate city tour including views of the City Hall, Queen's University, the Parliament Building at Stormont and murals in different locations indicating political sentiments of local residents.(Breakfast)

Accommodations: Europa Hotel, Belfast.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 12 - Depart Belfast.

Departure transfers arrive at Belfast George Best City Airport at 07:15 and Belfast International Airport at 08:00.(Breakfast)

Meals: Breakfast