

## Game of Thrones Northern Ireland Territory Tour

### Day 1: Heading for the Emerald Isle

Today you will start our journey by flying across the United States and taking an overnight flight across the Atlantic Sea to Ireland.

### Day 2: Welcome to Ireland

This morning we will land in Dublin Airport and once you proceed through to the arrivals area, you will be met and transferred to your first destination, to the rejuvenated and unmissable, Northern Ireland. As we will discover on tour, it is here, in the he forests, mountains and moorlands around Northern Ireland which transformed into the scenic backdrops for the most memorable moments from the epic medieval fantasy, Game of Thrones.

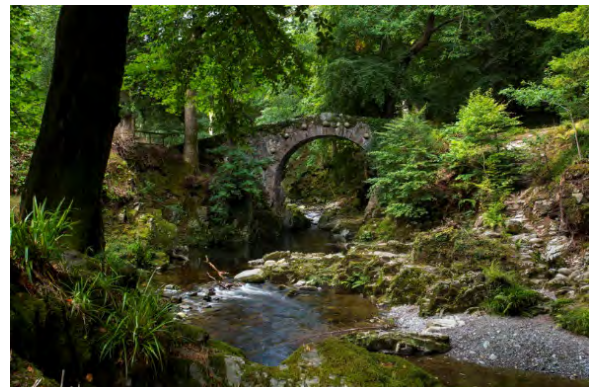
Having arrived into the iconic city of Dublin, the capital of the Republic of Ireland, we will enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour to see local landmarks and historic buildings like the GPO (General Post Office) on O'Connell Street, Trinity College, housing the Book of Kells and much more. Afterwards, we will journey deep into the heart of the world famous Guinness brand and company at their historic Dublin headquarters. We will visit Guinness Storehouse to hear the story of Ireland's iconic drink, bringing to life the heritage of Guinness from early days to growth as a global brand now known all around the world.



Afterwards, we will journey north of Dublin to reach Co. Down, which left an evident impression on HBO location scouts as upon arrival into the county, you are quickly surrounded by the majestic mountains and scenic landscapes from the hit TV series. We will check into our hotel, The Slieve Donard, located on the coastline of Co. Down. Relax and enjoy your surroundings before meeting the group later for a welcome dinner and toast to the start of this exciting tour. **Dinner & Overnight: The Slieve Donard, Co. Down**

### Day 3: The House That Stark Built

After breakfast this morning, we set out to explore familiar backdrops featured in Season 1 to 7 in Game of Thrones. **First stop, we're throwing you in at the deep end – Tollymore Forest Park is home to magnificent red woods, centuries-old stone structures and the forbidding White Walkers.** Known as the Haunted Forest in Westeros, this expanse of wild woodland is where we





first came face-to-face with the cold-blooded creatures. It's also where the Starks encountered their newborn direwolves for the first time. Seek out treasures of your own in the mossy glow of these ancient trees – but be on the lookout for any blue eyes watching you from the gloom. **Enjoy a walking tour of the forest before journeying to our next stop at the house that Stark built.** Since the 16th century, the Ward family have called Castle Ward home. But in the Seven Kingdoms, this

sprawling demesne has another name – Winterfell, ancestral home of House Stark. **Here, you can practice archery in the same spot as Jon Snow, model some authentic Westeros attire and feast on a lavish medieval banquet inspired by the show.**

Afterwards, we will return to our hotel where you are free to enjoy your surroundings and the quaint village for the remainder of your evening. **Overnight: The Slieve Donard, Co. Down**

#### **Day 4: One Legend for Another**

Following breakfast this morning, we will depart Co. Down for new adventures in Belfast, the famous transformed capital city of Northern Ireland. Before we leave Co. Down, glorious by location as some may now agree, we will stop in Downpatrick known as ‘St. Patrick’s Town’ due to its historical links with the patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. **Today we swap one legend for another by visiting The Saint Patrick Visitor Centre to explore the legacy of Patrick, ancient and modern, and recall the saint’s own story in his own words.**



We will visit Down Cathedral, a Church of Ireland cathedral built in 1183 where Ireland’s patron saint St. Patrick's remains are buried in the graveyard. **We will then proceed onto Belfast, making our last stop in Co. Down at Audleys Castle,** named after its 16<sup>th</sup>-century owners where it eventually fell into the hands of the Ward family in 1646 and used in 1738 as an eye-catching focus of the long vista along Castle Ward’s artificial lake, Temple Water. Audley's Field was used during Season 1 as King Robert Baratheon and his retinue arrive at Winterfell. It's the backdrop of Robb's Camp in Season 2 and the place where he first meets Talisa. Later on, Audley's Field is where Alton Lannister is imprisoned with Jaime (and doesn't live to tell the tale).

We continue into Belfast, known in equal parts for the birthplace of the Titanic, the notorious history of Northern Ireland and its quality driven hospitality scene, to check into our hotel and enjoy the rest of the evening. **Dinner & Overnight: Belfast Hotel**

#### **Day 5: The Real Wonders of Westeros – Part 1**

After a hearty breakfast this morning, we leave the city for the surrounding Antrim countryside as

most simply, you cannot come to Northern Ireland without visiting the now famous locations across the country which the hit series is filmed from. **You will depart your accommodation to journey via the Causeway Coastal Route** which is dubbed one of the best coastal drives in the world. Known locally as ‘The Glens’, it stretches between two of Northern Ireland’s main cities and brings you past breathtaking scenery. If you haven’t heard about it already, this route winds between picturesque villages and unforgettable scenic locations. Sit back and relax as today on tour we take in backdrops including the 400 million year old **Cushendun Caves** which as double as the site of a dark crime in Westeros, the forgivingly deceiving ‘white cliffs’ of **Larrybane Quarry** as well as **Ballintoy Harbour** a picturesque port nearby the town of Ballintoy, is also known as Pyke – the home of the infamous Ironborn and **The Dark Hedges**, so stunning we doubt you will flee as quick as Ayra Stark did from the Lannisters as she escaped down the Kingsround alongside the Nights Watch.



**On tour today, we will enjoy lunch and a visit the world famous Giant’s Causeway, renowned for its polygonal columns of layered basalt, which is the only World Heritage Site in Northern Ireland.** Resulting from a volcanic eruption 60 million years ago, this is the focal point for a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has attracted visitors for centuries. It harbors a wealth of local and natural history. Other noteworthy items include: a Spanish Armada shipwreck site (‘LaGirona’) & many traces of the legendary giant – Finn MacCool. **We will also visit Carrick-a-Rede, famous for its rope bridge, (unique in Ireland)** – which connects the mainland to Carrick-a-Rede Island. Offering an exhilarating coastal path and rope bridge experience from the cliffs to the rocky island, we enjoy stunning views of Rathlin and the Scottish Isles, as well as a noisy seabird colony.



Following a busy day of sightseeing and stunning scenery, you will return to your hotel to enjoy your evening in Belfast. **Overnight: Belfast Hotel**

**Day 6: The Real Wonders of Westeros – Part 2**

Enjoy breakfast and today we set out to explore more famous Game of Thrones film locations on the north west of Northern Ireland. **Our first stop will be at Slemish Mountain, the legendary first known Irish home of Saint Patrick**, is located in Co. Antrim. Beneath Slemish Mountain, where St Patrick once served as a shepherd, lies the



Shillanavogy valley. But this peaceful land is home to some rowdier residents in Essos – in the show, this is the setting for the Dothraki Sea. Khal Drogo rode across this land towards Vaes Dothrak with his new bride, Daenerys Targaryen, and her wicked brother Viserys.

**We continue north west to arrive on its coast in Downhill Beach, which is a stretch of spotless white sands, overlooked by Mussenden Temple, a replica of the Temple of Vesta in Rome.** This immaculate beach has a darker side – this is where Stannis Baratheon rejects the seven old gods of Westeros. He is proclaimed as the champion of the Lord of Light by Melisandre, and enters Dragonstone into the War of the Five Kings. After a photo stop, we continue onward into the quaint, seaside town of Portstewart where you can enjoy lunch and talk a coastal walk along the two-mile long Portstewart Strand. It was here among the huge sand dunes and clumps of grass, that Jaime and Bronn found themselves captured by Dornish soldiers on the coast of Sunspear, and where Ellaria and her Sand Snake sisters conspired to start a war with the Lannisters.



Following another busy day of sightseeing and stunning scenery, you will return to your hotel to enjoy your evening in Belfast. **Overnight: Belfast Hotel**

#### **Day 7: Exploring Titanic's Hometown**

Fill up on your Irish breakfast this morning and get set to explore the hometown of the Titanic, the world's most famous ship. **We will stop in the Titanic Quarter, one of the world's largest urban-waterfront regeneration projects, to visit Titanic Belfast, which was awarded the world's number one attraction in 2016.** and experience the story of the Titanic in an innovative, interactive and insightful way. Symbolic inside and out, Titanic Belfast tells the story of RMS Titanic through nine galleries, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end.



Afterwards, you are free to spend the remainder of your afternoon in Belfast as you please. Check out Victoria Square for some shopping or get a history lesson at the Ulster Museum. Enjoy Belfast tonight which offers everything from fine dining, brasseries and bistros to gastro pubs, cafes and some of the best fish and chips around. From quick drinks to cocktail lounges – you are sure to find something to your taste, enjoy! **Overnight: Belfast Hotel**

#### **Day 8: Relax and Recovery in Cavan**

Refuel on your leisurely breakfast as we bid Belfast farewell as we embark on a luxurious stay in Cabra

Castle in Co. Cavan, known as the 'Lake Country' as supposedly there is a lake for every day of the year (including leap years).

**On route, we will delightfully detour to Co. Fermanagh to visit the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, one of the finest show caves in Europe.** Be guided though a fascinating natural underworld of rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers while stunningly beautiful cave formations glisten all around. Through the tangled woods and behind a gushing waterfall is Pollnagollum Cave, the cave where the Brotherhood Without Banners shelter from the invading Lannister forces. Arya, Gendry and Hot Pie are captured by the rag-tag group as they try to reach Riverrun, and in the darkness of this cave, Sandor Clegane faces his trial-by-combat against the fearless and immortal Beric Dondarrion.



After an unforgettable day of terrain, we journey east into Co. Cavan to check into Cabra Castle, the magnificent 19<sup>th</sup> century 4 star castle which is set on 100 acres of beautifully manicured gardens and parkland. Enjoy your surroundings before meeting later to share a farewell dinner together. Reflect on the memories, friendships and magic created during your stay in Ireland and toast to a successful trip in the Emerald Isle. **Overnight: Cabra Castle, Co. Cavan**

### **Day 9 Homeward Bound...**

Pack your bags as we head for Dublin Airport where you will board your flight for home. Carry on your photos and memories and bring a bit of the Emerald Isle home with you. 'The Land of One Hundred Thousand Welcomes' will be expecting you again soon.