

The Celtic East Coast

Day 1: Heading for the Emerald Isle

Today we 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 land in Dublin airport. Once you go through passport control, you collect your bags and head out into the arrivals area where your very friendly Irish Tour Director will meet and transfer you to our first destination, Kinsale, the picturesque yachting harbor along the coastline of Co. Cork.



On route to Cork, we will stop in Co. Tipperary which is part of the Golden Vale region, an area known for rich land and a tradition of dairy farming. **Today we see a spectacular group of medieval buildings at the Rock of Cashel, set high above the green pastures of the Golden Vale.** The Rock of Cashel, also known as St. Patrick's Rock, is crowned by the 13th

century Gothic Cathedral, beside which nestles the unique Romanesque Cormac's Chapel. There is also a round tower and a 12th century High Cross, the base of which is said to have been the inauguration stone of the Kings of Munster. This is a great place to get a photo of the surrounding Irish landscape. Over the years, the Rock has fallen under many different regimes, though nowadays the only invasions come from tourists. The majority of buildings you see now date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, but the stories go back even further. According to legend, this is where Saint Patrick converted Aenghus the King of Munster in the 5th century.

We continue onto Kinsale for check-in and you can now relax in your surroundings amongst the narrow, winding streets lined with galleries, gift shops, lively bars and a handsome natural harbor guarded by a huge 17th-century fortress. **Overnight: Kinsale Hotel**

Day 3: Exploring County Cork

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, we will set out to explore Cork by visiting the historic port town of Cobh. If you claim Irish descent, then there is a good chance that your ancestors left Ireland through Cobh as it was the departure point for 2.5 million of the six million Irish people who immigrated to North America between 1848 and 1950. We will enjoy a beautiful, informative and sometimes emotive cultural visit to the Cobh Heritage Museum to learn about the history of Irish Emigration.



We then proceed into Cork City, glorious by location and referred by locals as ‘the real capital of Ireland’ to enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour of this city. Cork City is set on an island in the River Lee, surrounded by interesting waterways and packed with grand Georgian avenues, cramped 17th-century alleys and modern masterpieces. We will enjoy a panoramic tour of the city before having free time in the city.

Later, we will return to the hotel where you are free to enjoy Kinsale, ‘The Gourmet Capital of Ireland’, for dinner and the rest of your evening. **Overnight: Kinsale Hotel**

Day 4: Greetings from Cork & it’s Seals

This morning after breakfast we travel to the east of Cork, traveling along the coastal route passing charming and seemingly more colorful towns of Roscarbery, Skibbereen and Bantry to Glengarriff. From here, we board our ferry to **Garnish Island**, an island in Glengarriff harbor which forms a part of Bantry Bay. Enjoy the ride out to Garnish which is world renowned for its gardens which are laid out in beautiful walks with stunning plants which are very rare for the climate. We will also visit Seal Island where you get the opportunity to visit the very tame seal colony!



We then return to the hotel and you are free to enjoy your last night in the charming town of Kinsale. **Overnight: Kinsale Hotel**

Day 5: Next Stop...Waterford

Following breakfast this morning, we will bid farewell to Kinsale to search to new adventure in Waterford, the oldest city in Ireland famed in equal parts for its crystal production and Viking history.

Before departing Cork, the county renowned by locals as the 'real capital of Ireland', **we will enjoy a tour The Jameson Experience right in the heart of the distillery which operated for 150 years.** The local Midelton based experts will take you through the story of Irish whiskey, from the production to a sampling of the most popular Irish whiskey in the world.



We then continue north of Cork, remaining along the coast to arrive into Waterford, the oldest city in Ireland famed in equal parts for its crystal production and Viking history. We check-into this deceptively lively town to enjoy your evening at leisure. **Overnight: Waterford Hotel**

Day 6: Getting Acquainted with Waterford

Enjoy your breakfast this morning and fuel up for a walking tour of the walled city of Waterford. Hear from your local guide about Waterford, which was founded by Vikings in 914 AD and during the Norman Invasion of Ireland, King Henry II of England came to Waterford in 1171 and declared it one of two royal cities in Ireland, the other being Dublin. Enjoy walking through 1,100 years of history and taking in two cathedrals, four national monuments and a gallery of rogues and rascals delivered in a witty, entertaining style.



Following this, we will **visit the House of Waterford Crystal.** A unique highlight of a visit is the factory tour which gives an up close insight into the centuries old tradition of Waterford Crystal making. Feel the heat of the furnace and marvel at the skills of the craftsmen. Waterford Crystal continues to provide some of the most prestigious trophies to the world's great sporting events made at the facility including the Irish Open Golf Trophy, Solheim Cup (Ladies Ryder Trophy) and The People Choice Awards, to name but a few.

Later this afternoon you are free to further enjoy this ancient Viking City and perhaps visit the Medieval Waterford Treasures Museum. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening as you spend your last night here. **Overnight: Waterford Hotel**

Day 7: Day Tripping to Wexford

After a leisurely breakfast we set out to visit Co. Wexford, vibrant with a tradition and history just waiting to be discovered. On tour today, we aim to just do that with **our first stop being the Hook Peninsula**, home to one of the oldest operational lighthouses in the world. Purpose built 800 years ago by the Knight William Marshal, enjoy taking a step back in time and hear the tales of medieval times and life as a light keeper.



After enjoying spectacular views from the lighthouse, we will journey to New Ross to visit **the Dunbrody Famine Ship, an authentic reproduction of an 1840's emigrant vessel, it provides a world-class interpretation of the famine emigrant experience.** We also visit the Irish Emigrant Wall of Honor, where you will find names of so many who left. For a fee you can add the name of your family member who emigrated all those years ago.

We then head back to Waterford, concluding the tour at the hotel. Relax in your surroundings and enjoy your last night in this special city. **Overnight: Waterford Hotel**

Day 8: The Capital Awaits

Once breakfast is finished up, we will bid farewell to Waterford as we embark on Ireland's capital, the iconic city of Dublin. On route, we will stop in Co. Wicklow, known as 'The Garden of Ireland'. Our visit will take us to one of Ireland's most famous attractions, Glendalough, a fascinating early Christian settlement positioned in a glaciated valley with two lakes and founded by Saint Kevin in the 6th century.



We continue into Co. Dublin, the small capital with a huge reputation. Upon arrival, we **will take a panoramic sightseeing tour of Dublin** to see local landmarks and historic buildings like the GPO (General Post Office) on O'Connell Street and Trinity College, housing the Book of Kells.



After that introduction, use the remainder of your evening exploring the city in your own way. Celebrate your night at the cultural heart of Dublin City, Temple Bar. This area on the south bank of the River Liffey is bursting with pubs, restaurants, galleries and great craic each and every night – enjoy! **Overnight: Dublin Hotel**

Day 9: Relax and Recovery in Dublin

Enjoy a leisurely last day in Ireland in its capital city. Explore all that Dublin has to offer today at landmarks like Guinness Storehouse, Kilmainham Gaol and The General Post Office (GPO) or at city spots like St. Stephens Green, Grafton Street or Phoenix Park.

Enjoy your day night in Dublin, the city with a pub to person ratio which is the envy of many cities! **Overnight: Dublin Hotel**



Day 10: Homeward Bound...

With bags packed, we will 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!