

Come join in the 'craic' on this convivial jaunt around the Emerald Isle, furnished with ruined castles, towering cliffs, historic towns, quiet lakes and natural wonders.



The wide skies, peaceful towns and coastal scenery of the Dingle Peninsula make it a place to which people long to return

# Country Roads of Ireland

## TOUR PACE

This is a well paced tour with two-night stays in Killarney and Galway, as well as in Dublin. The driving days are of a reasonable length, with frequent stops offering splendid photo opportunities.

## HOTELS

Modern hotels like the Europa in Belfast, contrast with the historic charm of Ballygally Castle Hotel with its original beamed ceilings, antique furniture and resident ghost. The Blarney Golf Resort is set amongst 170 acres in the beautiful Shournagh Valley.

**DAY 1 – DUBLIN SIGHTSEEING.** Welcome to Ireland! On arrival at Dublin Airport, your *airport transfer service* leaves for the tour hotel at 08:00, 11:00 & 13:30. Later, your *sightseeing tour of Dublin* includes the elegant squares of Ireland's 'fair city'. See the famous *O'Connell Street, Customs House and Dublin Castle*. Tonight, enjoy a *Welcome Drink* with your Tour Director and fellow guests. Hotel: Burlington

**DAY 2 – DUBLIN – KILDARE – KILKENNY – WATERFORD.** Drive to Kildare for an informative *visit to one of the country's main racehorse breeding centres and acclaimed 100 year old Japanese Gardens*. Move on to *the medieval city of Kilkenny* with free time to see *St. Canice's Cathedral* and the *Kilkenny Design Centre* before continuing to historic Waterford. Hotel: Dooleys (B)

**DAY 3 – WATERFORD – BLARNEY.** View the *9C Reginald's Tower*, the remains of the *old city walls* and *visit the Waterford Crystal showroom*. A delightful *coastal drive* brings you to *Cork* to view the *City Hall* and *St. Finbarr's Cathedral*. Stay in *Blarney* tonight. Hotel: Blarney Golf Resort (B,D)

**DAY 4 – BLARNEY – KILLARNEY.** On your *visit to Blarney castle*, will you hang upside down from the ramparts *to kiss the stone* and ensure a lifetime of eloquence? Cross the majestic *Derrynasaggart Mountains*, and continue to the beautiful scenery of the *Dingle Peninsula*, setting for the film *Ryan's Daughter*. From dramatic *Slea Head* at the peninsula's far end, make your way to the peaceful town of *Killarney*. Hotel: Killarney Towers/Killarney Avenue (B,D)

**DAY 5 – RING OF KERRY EXCURSION.** *An excursion takes you around the Ring of Kerry, one of the world's greatest scenic tours!* See towering cliffs, lush lakelands, remote villages, Ireland's highest mountain range and the three peaceful *Lakes of Killarney*. *Back in Killarney enjoy a ride with the locals on one of the famous jaunting cars. Tonight your Dine-Around evening offers you the option of dinner at a selection of local restaurants.* (B,DA)

**DAY 6 – KILLARNEY – LIMERICK – GALWAY.** Drive via picturesque *Adare* to the city of *Limerick* and see *St Mary's Cathedral* and medieval *King John's Castle*. Now *experience the lifestyle of rural Ireland over the centuries at Bunratty Folk Park*. Continue to the *Visitors' Centre at the 700-foot Cliffs of Moher with breathtaking views of the Clare Coast* before a delightful drive through the *Burren*, a strange, rocky landscape rich with wild orchids. Hotel: Maldron/Clayton (B,D)

**DAY 7 – CONNEMARA EXCURSION.** See Galway's *St Nicholas Cathedral, Spanish Arch* and *Eyre Square*, dedicated to US president John F. Kennedy. Then experience the beautiful rugged landscape of *Connemara*, a wonderland of rivers, lakes and silent hills. Tour the workshop of the *famous marble factory*, and *visit palatial Kylemore Abbey* before returning to your hotel. (B)

**DAY 8 – GALWAY – BELLEEK – LONDONDERRY.** This morning is dedicated to *Clonalis House, ancestral home of the O'Conors, descendants of the last High Kings of Ireland. Meet the resident family and tour their home, imbued with a warm and friendly atmosphere.* Head through County Sligo to visit the *Belleek Pottery Centre* nestled on the banks of the River Erne. Admire

the *Blue Stack Mountains* of Donegal as you cross into Northern Ireland. Your destination tonight is the ancient walled city of *'Derry'*. Hotel: City (B,D)

**DAY 9 – LONDONDERRY – BALLYGALLY.** Sightseeing with a *local guide* takes you inside the *well preserved walls*, still topped with cannons, and down steep *Shipquay Street*, with its elegant *Georgian houses*, to the *Gothic Guildhall*. *Continue along the coast to the spectacular Giant's Causeway, and hear the fantastic legends which surround this geological masterpiece created by the cooling of lava which burst through the Earth's crust millions of years ago.* Continue along the scenic *Antrim coast* to arrive at your hotel, overlooking the sandy beach of *Ballygally Bay*. Hotel: Ballygally Castle (B,D)

**DAY 10 – BALLYGALLY – BELFAST.** Continue around the coast, past the huge *Norman castle at Carrickfergus*, to arrive in Belfast. Meet your *local guide* for a panoramic tour of Northern Ireland's capital, where highlights include the *City Hall, Queen's University and Stormont Castle*. Hotel: Europa (B)

**DAY 11 – BELFAST – DUBLIN.** Travel alongside the *Mountains of Mourne* to Drogheda, taking a short drive along the historic *Boyne Valley*, site of the *Battle of Boyne* where William of Orange defeated the forces of Catholic King James. Return to Ireland's lively capital, *Dublin*, and spend a leisurely evening relaxing, exploring or perhaps taking in a famous Irish Cabaret show. Hotel: Burlington (B)

**DAY 12 – DUBLIN.** Your tour comes to an end after breakfast this morning. *Departure transfers* arrive at *Dublin Airport* at 07:30, 09:30 & 11:30. (B)



Acquire the 'gift of the gab' at Blarney



Visit Kylemore Abbey, regarded as one of Ireland's most romantic buildings

**Key**

- PREMIUM HIGHLIGHTS
- PERSONAL INSIGHTS
- DINE-AROUND DINNERS
- WELCOME DRINK
- GUIDED SIGHTSEEING OR ORIENTATION TOUR
- CENTRAL HOTELS + NIGHTS
- SCENIC HOTELS + NIGHTS

See hotel details on pages 187-198

Meet the descendants of the last 12th century High Kings of Ireland at their ancestral home, Clonalis House



Take a ride on the Jaunting Cars with a "jante" in a famous jaunting car  
 Choose from a selection of local restaurants at your Dine-Around evening

Tour the magnificent Ring of Kerry, to view the three lakes of Killarney



Enjoy a behind the scenes look at the National Stud and admire the adjoining Japanese Gardens, laid out by a Japanese landscape artist at the turn of last century



- Included Premium Highlights**
- Tour the Ring of Kerry, a scenic symphony with stunning views over mountains and sea
  - Enjoy a highlight ride with the locals on one of the famous Killarney jaunting cars
  - Ireland's rural heritage comes to life on your visit to Bunnraty Folk Park
  - Admire stunning views of the Clare Coast and visit the Exhibition Centre at the Cliffs of Moher
  - Visit the spectacular Giant's Causeway

- Included Personal Insights**
- An equine professional joins you for a behind the scenes look at Ireland's National Stud and its famous Japanese Gardens
  - Meet the descendants of the last High Kings of Ireland at their ancestral home, Clonalis House

- Included Other Excursions & Sights**
- See the Customs House, Dublin Castle and O'Connell Street in Dublin
  - Stop in medieval Kilkenny and visit Kilkenny Design Centre
  - See the remains of the old city walls and Reginald's Tower in Waterford
  - Visit the Waterford Crystal showrooms
  - Climb Blarney Castle and dangle from the ramparts to kiss the famous 'Blarney Stone'
  - Enjoy a scenic tour of Dingle Peninsula to Sleah Head ● Visit the pretty town of Adare
  - See King John's Castle and St Mary's Cathedral in Limerick
  - See St. Nicholas Cathedral, Spanish Arch and Eyre Square in Galway
  - Connemara excursion including a visit to the Connemara Marble factory
  - Visit the turreted neo-Gothic Kylemore Abbey ● Visit the Belleek Pottery Centre
  - See 'Derry's Walls' and Gothic guildhall ● Drive around the immense Carrickfergus Castle
  - View the City Hall and Queen's University in Belfast
  - Scenic drives – the 'Burren', Antrim coast, Boyne Valley

- Included First Class Services**
- Escorted by a professional Tour Director
  - Headsets for all guided visits and walking tours
  - Luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with extended leg room and on-board restroom
  - Insight Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portage
  - Insight Traveller document wallet, map book journal and information pack
  - Airport arrival and departure transfers at scheduled times on Day 1 and Day 12  
*(Should your flights not coincide with these arrival and departure transfers, please make your own way to/from the airport or see page 191 to purchase a transfer)*

- Included Quality Dining**
- Dine-Around evening at your own choice of restaurant from our selection in Killarney (DA)
  - 11 full Breakfasts (B), 5 three-course Evening Meals with choice, or buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

TOUR CODE: **B909** **Save up to \$240 p.p. - see reductions below**

Starts Dublin:	Twin Share	Single Supp. Option	Starts Dublin:	Twin Share p.p.	Single Supp. Option	Starts Dublin:	Twin Share p.p.	Single Supp. Option	Starts Dublin:	Twin Share p.p.	Single Supp. Option
Apr 04	\$2375	\$550	May 23	\$2450	\$550	Jul 11	\$2450	\$550	Aug 29	\$2450	\$550
Apr 11	\$2375	\$550	May 30	\$2450	\$550	Jul 18	\$2450	\$550	Sep 05	\$2475	\$550
Apr 18	\$2375	\$550	Jun 06	\$2450	\$550	Jul 25	\$2475	\$550	Sep 12	\$2475	\$550
Apr 25	\$2375	\$550	Jun 13	\$2450	\$550	Aug 01	\$2450	\$550	Sep 19	\$2475	\$550
May 02	\$2425	\$550	Jun 20	\$2450	\$550	Aug 08	\$2450	\$550	Sep 26	\$2475	\$550
May 09	\$2425	\$550	Jun 27	\$2450	\$550	Aug 15	\$2450	\$550			
May 16	\$2450	\$550	Jul 04	\$2450	\$550	Aug 22	\$2450	\$550			

- Reductions**
- SAVE \$40 p.p. with Triple room reduction
  - Insight's Great Savings & Discounts**
  - SAVE \$240 per person with Young Traveller Discount
  - SAVE up to \$124 per person with 2nd Tour Discount
  - SAVE up to \$124 per person with Frequent Traveller Discount
- |                               |                  |                  |                 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Early Payment Discount</b> | <b>12 months</b> | <b>10 months</b> | <b>6 months</b> |
| SAVE per person               | \$240            | \$180            | \$120           |

**Extra Accommodation**

Per person, per night

Burlington, Dublin	Twin \$130	Single \$190	Triple \$124
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**Notes**

Tours start on Mondays and end on Fridays.  
 At peak periods some departures may operate in reverse and on these occasions, the hotels may differ from those stated in the itinerary.

**DEF** **Definite Departures (DEF)** are tour dates guaranteed to operate.  
 These are regularly updated and listed on our website [www.insightvacations.com](http://www.insightvacations.com) (see page 19 for details)

For additional information regarding Insight's great Savings & Discounts, please see page 18.

**Included** are worth approximately US\$201

For news, views & info visit the 'Insight Travel Forum' at [www.insightvacations.com](http://www.insightvacations.com)

