



Ireland: Pubs, Legends & Castles

2020 May 21 – 30

2-night optional Pre-Stay / 6-night Tour

ITINERARY



2-Night PRE-STAY

Thu, May 21

UNITED STATES TO DUBLIN

Depart your hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you travel to start your vacation.

Fri, May 22

DUBLIN ARRIVAL (2-night PRE-STAY)

Land at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities before meeting your driver/guide, who will welcome you to Ireland. The Davenport Hotel is about a 25 minute ride (depending on traffic) – if most of the group arrives for the pre-stay, transfers will be arranged. Otherwise, taxi approx. €25 - €30, so best to pair up and split it. UBER is also available. Pull out your **Hotel Voucher**, and check into your room and enjoy the balance of the day at leisure sampling Jameson and Guinness in Dublin, Ireland's capital city. And perhaps Irish stew. Sleep well.

OVERNIGHT: DAVENPORT HOTEL, DUBLIN

Sat, May 23

DUBLIN AT LEISURE & 7pm MUSICAL PUB CRAWL

Today is completely at leisure for you to explore Dublin.

Dublin Day at Leisure - You might consider:

Temple Bar area, National Leprechaun Museum, St. Stephen's Green, Brazen Head Pub (oldest Pub in Ireland), Hop-On / Hop-Off Bus, National Museum, Old Jameson Distillery, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ryan's Victorian Bar, Abbey



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Street, Kilmainham Gaol, Nassau Street, Irish Writers Museum and more...

WAIT to go to the Guinness Storehouse and the Trinity Library – as you will be going there on Sunday!

Before the Pub Crawl - **Dinner on your own with friends.**

6:45pm Tonight: Meet on the waterfront and join your fellow travelers for a MUSICAL Pub Crawl in Dublin, where you will learn and experience the way the Irish sing their history in song. Learn about the unusual instruments of Irish music, and perhaps an Irish jig! Visit famous pubs and bars providing you with a sample of Irish culture and entertainment.

OVERNIGHT: DAVENPORT HOTEL, DUBLIN

DUBLIN ARRIVAL & OFFICIAL TOUR BEGINNING

**OFFICIAL
DAY 1**

12:30pm - For those that have arrived for the pre-stay in Dublin- meet at the Davenport Hotel in the Lobby at 12:30 to begin your official TOUR!!

Sun, May 24

JUST ARRIVING: Arriving Sunday morning at Dublin Airport, **collect your baggage and proceed through customs** and immigration formalities. Once in the **Arrivals Hall** – look for the sign and your Tours Rep.

Your driver/guide will escort you and your luggage to the motorcoach. You will swing by the hotel and pick up your other travelers, and then **take a city view drive around Dublin City Center.**

Dublin is one of the liveliest capitals in Europe but there are plenty of historical places also. See the main thoroughfares of O'Connell Street and Nassau Street, the shopping streets and some lovely public parks.

Visit Trinity College to see the Book of Kells, an 8th century illuminated manuscript of the gospels and **see the Old Library.**

Next **visit the Guinness Storehouse** to see exhibits on how this world famous stout was first created and why it is so popular today. Attend Guinness Class to learn how to perfectly pull a pint!

Finish your visit in the roof-top bar, **Gravity**, overlooking the city center where you can sample a complimentary draft Guinness and enjoy the view of the city.

Then drive to your hotel and check in. **Dinner on your own with friends.**

OVERNIGHT: DAVENPORT HOTEL, DUBLIN

Mon, May 25

IRISH NATIONAL STUD & WALKING TOUR OF KILKENNY

This morning depart Dublin and **drive to Kildare** which is in the heart of Ireland's horse country.

A visit to **the Irish National Stud** will show you the history and current trends of horse-breeding in Ireland. See some of the magnificent horses and learn about horse-breeding. Then **take a walk around the Japanese Gardens** which were established in 1908 and represent the "Life of Man" from cradle to grave in the traditional Japanese style of gardening.

Also see the charming **St. Fiachra's Garden** with water features and beehive huts.

After your visit, drive on to Kilkenny and upon arrival **embark on a guided walking tour** through this medieval city. The humorous and informative guide will show you many of Kilkenny's historical sites, which help make stories about the past come to life.

After your tour check into your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

Dinner on your own with friends.



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OVERNIGHT: RIVER COURT HOTEL, KILKENNY

Tue, May 26

BLARNEY CASTLE & KILLARNEY

Depart Kilkenny this morning and travel north through County Cork.

At Blarney, **stop to climb to the battlements of Blarney Castle**. Here, you may **kiss the famous "Stone of Eloquence."**

After your visit, journey west through rugged countryside to the town of Killarney. Upon **arrival an old-fashioned horse drawn jaunting car** will bring you through the Killarney National Park, which is closed to motorized vehicles. Drive along the shores of Lough Leane to Muckross House, an elegant 19th century mansion set beside the tranquil Muckross Lake.

Then check into your hotel where the evening is free to explore the grounds of the Hotel.

Dinner on your own with friends.

OVERNIGHT: LAKE HOTEL, KILLARNEY

Wed, May 27

DINGLE PENINSULA TOUR & DINGLE BREWERY

Today **discover the beauties of the Dingle Peninsula**, made famous by David Lean's movie, "Ryan's Daughter."

Drive along the south shore of the peninsula for plenty of vistas of heathery mountains, sandy stretches of beach and rocky headlands.

There will be frequent stops at strategic locations to admire the views and take photos.

At the base of Conor Pass, **stop in the town of Dingle** for lunch (on your own) and **then to the Dingle Brewing Company**. Learn about the brewery's rich and varied past before sampling a pint of this local lager.

Continue your drive on to the western tip of the peninsula. **Here, the scenery becomes wilder** as the influence of the open Atlantic Ocean strengthens.

You will pass **early Christian monastic beehive huts and small fishing villages**.

Return to Killarney for a free night and **dinner on your own with friends**.

OVERNIGHT: LAKE HOTEL, KILLARNEY

Thu, May 28

CLIFFS OF MOHER, GALWAY & Viking Pub Crawl

Depart Killarney and travel north through the village of Listowel to Tarbert.

Take a **20-minute ferry ride across the River Shannon** estuary and drive along the **coastline of County Clare to view and visit the Cliffs of Moher, one of the country's most magnificent rock formations** that rise to heights of almost 700 feet above the churning Atlantic swells.

Pass through the **Burren Country**, an area of rocky limestone hills where a number of unique flowers thrive. This region also contains many dolmens, prehistoric monuments formed by large limestone slabs.

Continue **north to Galway and embark on a panoramic tour** to view the principal sights of the city. A drive around will take you to the large modern cathedral set on an island on the River Corrib. See the **Spanish Arch in the Claddagh** area, formerly a fishing village, the City Museum, National University of Galway and the Cathedral of Our Lady, which is built on the site of the former county jail.

Then check into your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the **afternoon at leisure**. You may choose to relax in your hotel or spend some time around **Eyre Square**, the hub of



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the city. Most of the shops are within easy reach and there are also many quaint pubs where Irish traditional music is played.

Before the Pub Crawl - **Dinner on your own with friends.**

7:30pm Tonight - join your fellow travelers for a **Viking Pub Crawl** of Galway. Enjoy your tour with some Irish dancing, sing-a-long of Irish ballads and perhaps sample some premium whiskey tastings or a few pints.

OVERNIGHT: ARDILAUN HOTEL, GALWAY

Fri, May 29

CLONMACNOISE & KILBEGGAN DISTILLERY

Travel from Galway to the center of Ireland to **visit Clonmacnoise**. This monastic settlement was founded in 545 AD by St. Ciaran and is delightfully set on the banks of the River Shannon. Take a mini-Tour and learn about the history of the site through an audiovisual presentation and take a walk around to see the ancient monuments and the entire area. Continue towards Kilbeggan to **visit Kilbeggan Distillery**, which was established in 1757; while the distillery is not the first of its kind, **it is the oldest licensed distillery in the world**. View how whiskey is distilled on modern equipment in the old buildings and enjoy a sample of the finished product.

Then journey across the rolling pastures of **Ireland's heartland to Drogheda**. Check into your room and then enjoy.

6pm Tonight. - Happy Hour & traditional Irish storytelling by a Seanachie (SHAWN-a key).

Afterwards 7pm – dinner on your own with friends.

OVERNIGHT: THE D HOTEL, DROGHEDA

Sat, May 30

RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES

Sadly, today your Irish vacation has come to its final day.

Morning Transfer to Dublin Airport in good time to check in for your flights.

Those with late flights, you can choose to take a taxi to the airport at your discretion. Check with the Hotel front desk for arrangements.

