

# FROM IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST TO THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

GP • DUBLIN → LIMERICK

Leisurely ○ ● ○ ○ ○ On the go

## Meals

Breakfast: 8 Lunch: 0 Dinner: 4

## Transport

Touring by private, air-conditioned motorcoach.

Free Wi-Fi (where available)

## Accommodation

First-Class or Superior First-Class with private bath or shower. Includes hotel taxes, portorage, tips and service charges

## HighLights

Dublin

Waterford

Kinsale

Limerick



## DAY 1: ARRIVE IN DUBLIN, IRELAND.

Cead mile failte-a hundred-thousand welcomes! Check into your hotel with the rest of the day free to relax in the Irish capital. This evening, meet your Tour Director and travelling companions for a welcome dinner at your hotel. (D)

## DAY 2: DUBLIN.

This morning's orientation drive in the "Fair City" includes statue-lined O'Connell Street, elegant Georgian squares with their tall, red-brick townhouses, colourful doors, and wrought iron-decorated windows, Oscar Wilde's Trinity College and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Then, the tumultuous events of the Easter Rising in 1916 will come to life as you visit the GPO WITNESS HISTORY and experience how Ireland's future dramatically changed. The afternoon is at leisure for you to enjoy the vibrant city. Tonight, why not join an optional cabaret evening with dinner, followed by dance, song, and laughter? (B)

## DAY 3: DUBLIN-KILDARE-KILKENNY-NEW ROSS-WATERFORD.

Horse-racing country awaits this morning. Drive across the Curragh to the IRISH NATIONAL STUD at Kildare, whose thoroughbreds command respect on racecourses around the world. Then, south to

Kilkenny for a guided tour of SMITHWICK'S EXPERIENCE and Irish ale tasting. Your guide will show you how over 300 years, the art of mixing four simple ingredients produced the ruby-red ale enjoyed all over the world. Next, at the DUNBRODY FAMINE SHIP, hear the story of famine emigration from those who left Ireland-the brave, desperate, and, above all, ordinary people who chose to leave everything they knew for an uncertain future abroad. Spend the next two nights in Waterford, Ireland's oldest city. After dinner this evening, enjoy an IRISH COFFEE DEMONSTRATION. (B,D)

Today's Distance: 134 mi / 216 km

#### **DAY 4: WATERFORD.**

Start your day with an exciting ride on the WATERFORD & SUIR VALLEY RAILWAY, a heritage narrow-gauge train that runs along the Suir River through beautiful, rolling farmland and woodland gardens. Then, your Local Guide will take you on a walking tour covering the Waterford Treasures: the massive stone fortress, Reginald's Tower houses Waterford's Viking treasures; Ireland's only MEDIEVAL MUSEUM featuring spectacular treasures from the Middle Ages; and the elegant 1743 BISHOP'S PALACE, the home of the treasures of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. In the afternoon, enjoy a guided tour of the HOUSE OF WATERFORD CRYSTAL and watch as craftsmen transform glowing balls of molten crystal into elegant shapes. Later, you'll have time at leisure to discover the town on your own. For your optional dinner experience, drive to Dunmore East, a popular tourist and fishing village. Spend some time with the locals over a drink at the village pub, followed by dinner.

(B)

#### **DAY 5: WATERFORD-YOUGHAL-BLARNEY-KINSALE.**

This morning, follow the scenic road known as the Copper Coast to the ancient port town of Youghal. On to Blarney, where you will have time to shop for traditional Irish handicrafts, or perhaps walk up to the castle. This afternoon, arrive at your overnight destination of picturesque Kinsale. Be captivated by its long waterfront, yacht-filled harbour, winding streets, and brightly painted galleries, shops, and houses. (B,D) Today's Distance: 110 mi / 172 km

#### **DAY 6: KINSALE-GARINISH ISLAND-KILLARNEY.**

This morning, board a private boat for the short crossing to GARINISH ISLAND in Bantry Bay, whose warm waters attract colonies of seals. Follow the meandering paths between the fragrant flowering trees and shrubs of this lush, tropical island garden. Afterwards, head over the mountains into County Kerry. At Kenmare, join part of the RING OF KERRY and stop for spectacular photos of the Lakes of Killarney from Ladies View before arriving in the popular resort of Killarney. (B) Today's Distance: 92 mi / 148 km

#### **DAY 7: KILLARNEY-ADARE-LIMERICK.**

There is time this morning to explore on your own, or to take a jaunting-car ride through the national park. Then, drive to quaint Adare, one of Ireland's prettiest villages, beautifully set in woods along the Mague River, and with thatched cottages lining its wide main street. In Limerick, an orientation drive acquaints you with St. Mary's Cathedral, King John's Castle, and the stone where the Treaty of Limerick was signed in 1691. A suggestion for a very special night out: an optional medieval banquet

at an historic castle. After your three-course meal, sit back and let the hosts entertain you with music and storytelling during an unforgettable evening. (B) Today's Distance: 69 mi / 111 km

**DAY 8: LIMERICK. WEST COAST EXCURSION.**

The last day of your holiday brings you to the 668-foot CLIFFS OF MOHER, with breathtaking views of the Clare coast. Then, travel across the glacial-era limestone plateau of The Burren to the port city of Galway for a walking tour through this popular seaside destination and buzzing cosmopolitan centre. Next, experience Irish country life at RATHBAUN FARM. Try your hand at SCONE BAKING, and learn from the farmer about sheep shearing and herding. To complete your Irish journey, enjoy a traditional FARMHOUSE DINNER. (B,D) Today's Distance: 163 mi / 263 km

**DAY 9: LIMERICK.**

Your holiday ends with breakfast this morning. (B)