

## Notre Dame vs. Navy in Ireland 2020! *(and that is just the beginning)...*

### **Highlights Include:**

- Malahide Castle and Botanical Gardens
- Game-Day for Notre Dame vs. Navy
- Sheep Dog Demonstration
- Weaving demonstration
- Jaunting Cart ride in Killarney
- World-class Entertainment at *Trad on the Prom*
- Kylemore Abbey
- Connemara Marble Craft Tour
- Dingle Island
- Bunratty Castle & Lunch
- Kilkenny Castle

### **Price Includes:**

- 12 Day Grande Ireland tour
- Private driver and guide on a luxury coach to escort you through Ireland
- Full Breakfast Daily
- 4-Star Hotel Accommodation
- 5 Dinners and 1 Lunch - Experience wonderful Irish Food!
- All museum entries and tours listed above
- All Transportation and luggage handling are included

### *Not Included:*

- Insurance coverage for your trip – *we are happy to help you select trip insurance*
- Daily lunches, snack, drinks, shopping
- Dinners except those listed

Tuesday August 18th

### **IRELAND DEPARTURES**

Pack your bags, game day is just about here! Departures for Ireland are in the afternoon/evening, where you will have an overnight flight. Get ready for an epic adventure!

Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>

### **DUBLIN ARRIVAL**

Land at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities before meeting your tour driver/guide, who will welcome you to Ireland. Transfer to your nearby hotel and check in for your overnight stay. You will have some time to relax prior to the group meeting at 2:00 pm. Stretch your legs with a walk along the beach just behind your hotel in the exquisite area of Portmarnock. Later today, meet your group and travel a short distance to visit the stunning castle and botanical gardens at Malahide Castle.

*\*Note – hotel room check-in is not guaranteed for early morning arrivals. If you would like a room available when you arrive, please inquire about the additional cost*

Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 2:00 pm for a short drive to Malahide.

We will meet again for our group welcome dinner at 6:00 pm

Included: Dinner and Overnight at [Portmarnock Golf Hotel, Dublin](#) or [Clontarf Castle Hotel](#)

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Thursday August 20th

### **KILKENNY TOWN AND THE MEDIEVAL EXPERIENCE**

Today we will start off on a scenic drive through the famous Wicklow Mountain range on our way south to Kilkenny. (The Wicklow Mountains have been the backdrop for many movies, including the current historical drama *Vikings* on the History Channel) Along the way, we will stop at an authentic Irish sheep farm to learn how sheep dogs are essential to life on the farm. Driving south through the mountains, we will stop to visit an authentic weaving mill that has been in business since 1793.

This afternoon we will arrive in the Ancient East of Ireland to visit the Viking town of Kilkenny where you will be greeted by the lively atmosphere, and where you will find many well-preserved churches and monasteries, including the imposing St. Canice's Cathedral and the Black Abbey Dominican priory, both from the 13th century. Kilkenny is also a crafts hub, with shops along the winding lanes selling pottery, paintings and jewelry.

You may wish to visit the oldest brewery in Ireland - Smithwicks Brewery, or the Medieval Museum, or learn more about famine times in Ireland at the Kilkenny Famine

Experience. Enjoy a group dinner at your hotel before having time to explore Kilkenny independently.

Included: Dinner and Overnight at [Kilkenny Ormonde](#) or Similar

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### Friday August 21

#### **HOUSE OF WATERFORD CRYSTAL & WATERFORD CITY**

This morning, we will drive to Waterford City to visit the House of Waterford Crystal. While here, learn about glass blowing, cutting and see first-hand how the art and craft of crystal and glass making work. Enjoy some time after the tour to sightsee independently in Waterford. You may want to visit the Bishop's Palace, Waterford Cathedral, or even Waterford Treasures if museums are to your taste. You may choose to check out the Viking Triangle or stop at Mount Congreve House. Regardless of your interests, there is something for you to do in this historic city.

Return to Kilkenny and enjoy free time in town, or relax in your Kilkenny hotel.

Included: Overnight at [Kilkenny Ormonde](#) or Similar

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### Saturday August 22

#### **JAMESON WHISKEY TOUR**

Today we will set off on our journey to Killarney in the heart of County Kerry. We will stop along the way to enjoy lunch and a sip of Jameson Whiskey at the Jameson Whiskey experience. Learn about the history of Ireland and Whiskey, and taste what makes Irish whiskey so appealing.

Arrive in time to check into your hotel in Killarney, and enjoy the many music venues and lively nature of Killarney town. Stay out late and enjoy the music, you can sleep in tomorrow!

Dinner and Overnight: [Great Southern Killarney](#)

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### Sunday August 23

#### **EXPLORE KILLARNEY**

Today you will wake up in the tidy-town of Killarney in the heart of County Kerry. Enjoy free time today and take your day at leisure; sleep in, take in an early morning stroll or a spa treatment, shop, explore the National Park, or even take a tour outside of town – there are endless opportunities for enjoyment in and around Killarney!

We will arrange a jaunting cart ride for you to Ross Castle where you can take in the castle views overlooking the lake. We will also have a ride planned to the National Park, where you can visit Muckross House and gardens – not to be missed on a good day! The Great Southern Hotel has a wonderful High Tea experience, if you would like to enjoy an afternoon break.

Perhaps a bike ride or a boat ride or round of golf will suit your tastes, let us know, and we will help you plan your perfect day! There are a multitude of pubs, shops, restaurants, a brewery, and churches all waiting to be explored! In the evening, you can dine at one of the many restaurants or pubs in Killarney.

Overnight: [Great Southern Killarney](#)

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Monday August 24

### **DINGLE PENNINSULA**

Today, discover the beauty of the Dingle Peninsula, once described by the National Geographic Traveler as “the most beautiful place on earth.” Drive along the south shore of the peninsula for plenty of vistas of heathery mountains, sandy stretches of beach, stunning green landscapes and rocky headlands. Pause at strategic locations to admire the views and take photos. Stop to visit Dingle Artisans, where you may shop or browse for quality made goods. Have lunch at any of the amazing pubs in town prior to heading back to Killarney.

OVERNIGHT: [Great Southern Killarney](#)

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Tuesday August 25

### **BUNRATTY CASTLE AND GALWAY**

Depart County Kerry today for a voyage north to Galway. On our way, we will make a stop at the imposing Bunratty castle and adjacent folk village. Enjoy the shops and crafts, and take a step back in time. After lunch at the famed Dirty Nelly’s Pub, we will head to the city of Galway where you will enjoy the rich Irish culture alive and well! Enjoy free time in town, before rejoining your group for dinner and a night of outstanding entertainment at the *Trad on the Prom* show in Galway. An evening of music and song that is not to be missed!

OVERNIGHT: [Galway Harbour Hotel](#)

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Wednesday August 26

**GALWAY – SEA CLIFFS AND MORE**

Today you will take an exciting excursion to see the famed Cliffs of Moher – but from the sea! Sail away on a boat cruise that will take you to the Irish-speaking island of Inis Oirr, where you can enjoy touring and a spot of lunch. On the way back to the mainland, we will enjoy the awesome view from beneath the Cliffs of Moher, and breathe in the best of the Wild Atlantic Way as seen from just off the coast. Keep an eye out for puffins and guillemots that make their nests on the cliffs, and visit sea stacks and hidden sea caves that riddle the rugged coast. You will never forget seeing the Cliffs of Moher from this stunning, sea level vantage.

OVERNIGHT: [Galway Harbour Hotel](#)

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Thursday August 27

**KYLEMORE ABBEY**

Today you will visit the Connemara Marble factory for a tour to see how they make beautifully crafted items from the local marble found in Connemara. Moving westward along the coast, head to the stunning Kylemore Abbey, a majestic Benedictine Abbey beautifully situated on the banks of a lake in the Irish countryside. Enjoy visiting the Abbey, the Gothic Cathedral, and the gardens. There is a wonderful café for lunch on site.

Return tonight to Galway and enjoy the lively town.

OVERNIGHT: [Galway Harbour Hotel](#)

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Friday August 28

**DUBLIN**

Today you will travel east across the mid-lands of Ireland to Dublin. En route, enjoy a stop at Clonmacnoise, an Early Christian site founded by St. Ciarán in the mid-6th century on the eastern bank of the River Shannon. The site includes the ruins of a cathedral, seven churches (10th -13th century), two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of Early Christian grave slabs in Western Europe. Arrive into Dublin town, and take in an independent dinner at one of the many restaurants or pubs that will be walking distance from your hotel.

OVERNIGHT: [Davenport Hotel, Dublin City](#)

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Saturday August 29

**GAME DAY!**

OVERNIGHT: [Davenport Hotel, Dublin City](#)

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Sunday August 30

**DUBLIN CITY SIGHTS**

Spend your final day in Ireland exploring the sights of Dublin. You may wish to visit the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin Castle, or simply enjoy taking in the sights and sounds of Ireland's capital city. Tonight, meet your group for a departing dinner at your hotel.

OVERNIGHT: [Davenport Hotel, Dublin City](#)

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Monday August 31

**DEPART FOR USA**

Departures for Dublin Airport  
The bittersweet end to the tour.

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