

The 2020 Art and Craft Grande Tour of Ireland

Highlights Include:

- Malahide Castle and Botanical Gardens
- Castle stays in Dublin
- Weaving Demonstration
- Sheep Dog Demonstration
- Kilkenny Castle
- Kilkenny Artisans
- Waterford Crystal Tour
- The Healy Hometown Village visit
- Jameson Whiskey Experience
- Dingle Town and Artisan Visits
- Jaunting cart ride in Killarney
- World-class Entertainment at *Trad on the Prom*
- Inis Oirr Island boat tour
- Kylemore Abbey
- Connemara Marble Craft Tour
- Achill Island Cliffs and Beaches
- Bunratty Castle & Lunch
- Kilbeggan Whiskey Tour
- Limited to ~ 30 guests

Price Includes:

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

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

Saturday June 20, 2020

IRELAND DEPARTURES

Departures for Ireland are in the afternoon/evening, where you will have an overnight flight. Get ready for an epic adventure!

Sunday June 21, 2020 – Day 1

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 for booking the night prior*

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 [Clontarf Castle, Dublin](#)

Monday June 22, 2020 – Day 2

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. There are many sights to enjoy in this lively city before rejoining your group for a fine meal at your hotel.

Dinner and Overnight: [Lyrath Estate or Mount Juliet](#)

Tuesday June 23 2020 – Day 3

HOUSE OF WATERFORD CRYSTAL & CARRIGEEN VILLAGE

This morning, we will 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. Have a meal in Waterford before heading out to the small village of Carrigeen for a tour favorite – the Healy Homestead visit.

The village of Carrigeen is where the Healy family still lives today, where the family gathers together to welcome us back home. Enjoy music and entertainment by the Healy Family - you just never know who may have a song or a story to share! Light refreshments will be served in the pub.

Overnight: [Lyrath Estate or Mount Juliet](#)

Wednesday June 24, 2020 – Day 4

JAMESON EN ROUTE TO KILLARNEY

We will start this morning with a tour of the beautiful Kilkenny Castle - few buildings in Ireland can boast a longer history of continuous occupation than Kilkenny Castle. Founded soon after the Norman conquest of Ireland, the Castle has been rebuilt, extended and adapted to suit changing circumstances and uses over a period of 800 years prior to leaving Kilkenny.

After the tour, 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!

Overnight: [Great Southern Killarney](#)

Thursday June 25 2020 – Day 5

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](#)

Friday June 26 2020 – Day 6

DINGLE PENINSULA

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, where we will meet for our group dinner at the fine Great Southern Hotel.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: [Great Southern Killarney](#)

Saturday June 27 2020 – Day 7

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 Durty 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, and grab some 'pub grub' at any of Galway's excellent eateries tonight while enjoying the Galway night-life.

OVERNIGHT: [Galway Harbour Hotel](#)

Sunday June 28 2020 – Day 8

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 us 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.

Tonight, you will join the group for 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!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: [Galway Harbour Hotel](#)

Monday June 29 2020 – Day 9

WESTPORT AND KYLEMORE ABBEY

Today you will experience more stunning vistas as we travel north on the Wild Atlantic Way destined for the town of Westport. On our way, we will visit the Connemara Marble factory for a tour of how they make beautifully crafted items from the local marble found in Connemara. Moving westward along the coast, we will 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.

After our visit to the Abbey, we will travel further north to County Mayo, and the towns surrounding Westport. Tonight you will check into your hotel and enjoy dinner with the group.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: Knockranny House Hotel or Westport Plaza

Tuesday June 30 2020 – Day 10

ACHILL ISLAND TOUR & DESERTED VILLAGE

This morning you will travel to Achill Island. This remote and wildly beautiful island sits in the primarily Irish speaking region of Ireland. Follow the Atlantic Drive to capture wonderful and wild scenic views of steeply sloped mountains plunging into the shimmering Atlantic Ocean. Stop to view the deserted village, which provides a haunting reminder of times past on Achill Island.

When we return from our day of touring, you will have free time to enjoy the town of Westport.

OVERNIGHT: Knockranny House Hotel or Westport Plaza

Wednesday July 1 2020 – Day 11

DUBLIN

This morning, you will travel back to Dublin for your final day in the Emerald Isle. Prior to checking into your hotel, we will provide you with a stop in Dublin, where you can walk the busy streets of the Temple Bar area, or take in the National Museum of Ireland, or simply stop for lunch and watch the sights and sounds of Dublin pass by.

Tonight we will enjoy our departing dinner and bid farewell to the friends we have made along the way!

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: [Clontarf Castle, Dublin](#)

Thursday July 2 2020 – Day 12

DEPARTURES or CHOOSE ADDITIONAL DAYS IN DUBLIN (we can provide more tour days for you, just ask!)

Departures for Dublin Airport
The bittersweet end to the tour.

