

We all know Ireland for its green rolling hills, lively culture and deep history – but you cannot truly know Ireland until you have experienced it!

Ireland is a small island with a big heart – where the locals believe their land is the most beautiful in the world. They wouldn't be wrong!

We chose to take our tours to Ireland, because it is a country with such a rich cultural heritage. We want to show people not just the places, but actual living traditions, and give our travellers access to the people that keep these traditions alive.

On this unique itinerary, we will show you Ireland unlike anyone else!

When you see Ireland with us - you see the best of Ireland!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Dublin fair city: explore lively Dublin and its rich history.

Local cuisine: discover Ireland's thriving food scene on a Food Trail.

Liquid gold: experience tastings of Guinness and Irish Whiskey.

Moments in history: learn the story of the Titanic in Belfast.

Ancient legends: marvel at the Giant's Causeway.

Rural life: visit a local sheep farm, and try your hand at peat cutting!

Authentic Experience: venture to the Aran Islands, and take a journey around the island in a traditional pony & trap.

Time Travel: journey back in time at Bunratty Folk Park.

Folk dance: enjoy a traditional Irish Folk Dance Show!

Gift of the gab: kiss the Blarney Stone – it might bring you luck!

Cobblestone Exclusives: attend private concerts, cultural events, and workshops exclusively for Cobblestone Freeway travellers.



Day 1 TOUR START DATE | Dublin (-/-/D)

Welcome to Ireland!

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your city centre hotel. Forget jetlag, Dublin awaits! Today you'll get a taste of this stunning city. Explore Ireland's capital city on a **guided city tour** - originally founded by Vikings over 1,000 years ago, you will discover the city's charm. See the elegant Georgian townhouses with brightly painted doors, cross the River Liffey, and see main sights of this beautiful, yet quaint city.

Afterwards, visit the **Book of Kells** - written around the year 800 AD, it is one of the most beautifully illustrated manuscripts in the world. The Book of Kells contains a richly decorated copy of the four gospels in Latin text.

After today's excitement, enjoy a **Welcome dinner** at your city center hotel, before retiring for the night.

Day 2 | Dublin (B/-/D)

Today we will explore the splendor of Dublin fair city on board the **Hop on Hop off Tour Bus**. The bus will be your mode of transport around the city and will transfer you between attractions. Dublin Castle, Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral are all within a short walking distance of each other. The Guinness Storehouse and Kilmainham Gaol are just on the fringe of Dublin City.

Today you will visit the **Guinness Storehouse** as part of your tour - see exhibits on how this world famous stout was first created, and why it is so popular today. Finish your visit in the roof-top bar, Gravity, overlooking the city center where you can sample a complimentary pint of Guinness and enjoy the panoramic view of the city.

At 6pm you will take the **Irish Food Trail**. You will hear some folklore stories, hear how Dublin has become the great City it is, and most importantly meet and dine with the local Irish people who are so proud of our heritage. The group will get to sample and share some hearty, typical Irish cuisine at each traditional Irish restaurant or pub that is visited along the trail. This will be influenced by the Tapas sharing nature. To top it off the tasty Tapas can be enjoyed with a glass of wine or beer in each establishment (in some venues the Irish Food Trail have arranged Irish Craft Beer tastings). Rest of the evening at your leisure.

HOTEL:

Central House Dublin or similar

<https://www.centralhoteldublin.com/>

2 Nights



Day 3 | Belfast (B/L/-)

Depart Dublin this morning and next it's on to **Belfast** City, which is the capital of Northern Ireland. Upon arrival, you'll take a **guided city tour** around Belfast City. Learn more about this city's turbulent past, its vast and varied history and its cosmopolitan present.

Next you will visit Belfast's **Titanic Museum**. Built on the very slipways where the RMS Titanic was built, this centre is the world's largest Titanic visitor experience, exploring the Titanic story in a fresh and insightful way. Embark on a journey through the life of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end. Through state of the art technology, the exhibitions nine interactive galleries take you back to the sights, sounds and stories of Titanic as well as the City and people which made her. The exhibition also explores the discovery of the wreck and has live links to current marine expeditions.

Rest of the day at your leisure to explore the beautiful city of Belfast or relax at the hotel.

Day 4 | Giant's Causeway (B/-/D)

This morning we will departure to the **Giant's Causeway**.

This incredible natural wonder and geological marvel draws people from all over the world to witness its unusual shape and form. This huge area of hexagonal columns was formed over 60 million years ago by cooling lava. The unique shape has led to many legends told, that the basalt resembles giant's footprints. The legend has it that Finn McCool, the mythical giant, built this as a bridge to Scotland to reach his beloved.

Optional: *try your hand at the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge challenge – if you dare!*

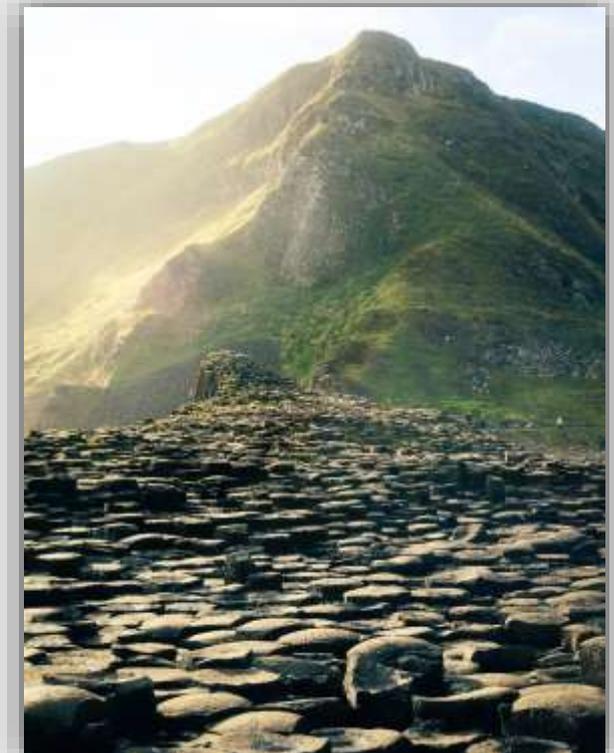
After, visit the **Bushmill's Distillery**, the oldest working distillery in Ireland. Ireland is famous for its whiskey – learn more about it and see for yourself how the famous whiskey is made! Oh, and taste some too!

Upon return to Belfast, dinner in one of our favourite restaurants. Evening at your leisure.

HOTELS:

3* Hotel | Belfast

2 Nights



The Destination

Derry - Connemara

Day 5 | Derry (B/L/-)

This morning you will experience the true Irish countryside – with a visit to **Shean’s Farm**. Here you will discover the History and Heritage of the people of the Causeway Coast. Visit with the family, and hear the McDonnell story while enjoying fresh tea and scones! It doesn’t get more personal than this!

Delve into Irish country life some more, as you try your hand at peat cutting, out on the green hillside! Enjoy stunning views, meet the local horses and sheep, and have fun dressing up in historic Game of Thrones costumes (for those of you who watch the series)!

Take a **tour of Derry**, walk its wall and soak up the rich history of its tumultuous past. Derry City is a 6th century walled city founded by St. Columcille. Enjoy a city tour, see the massive City Walls and Gates and the Guild Hall where the City Council sits.

Overnight in Derry.

Day 6 | Connemara (B/-/D)

Travel through the stunning Connemara National Park, which covers some 7000 acres of mountains, bogs, heaths and grasslands, with wildlife and scenic walking trails. Its mountains – known as the Twelve Bens - are made up of sharp-peaked quartzite summits and ridges, which provide an impressive vista.

We’ll see the Connemara Marble Factory, and then “The Quiet Man” bridge outside Oughterard – the setting for the 1950 film "The Quiet Man"!

Enjoy the breathtaking views as you travel through the Maam Valley in the shadow of the Maamturk Mountains. We will travel on to the picturesque **Kylemore Abbey**. Originally built as a Castle in 1867 as a romantic gift by Mitchell Henry who was inspired by his love for his wife. Kylemore Abbey and the surrounding mountains and lakes are steeped in history. It became home to a community of Benedictine Nuns in 1920 and has been renowned as a place of spirituality and education. Visit the beautiful Gothic Church which is a short stroll from the Abbey. Nestled nearby is the Mausoleum where the romantic couple, Mitchell and Margaret Henry are buried side by side.

Afterwards you will have the **option** to continue touring to the picturesque village of Leenane at the top of the Killary fjord, where you can enjoy wonderful views of the beautiful landscape. Check in and stay overnight near to the National Park.

HOTELS:

Derry Cottage or similar | Derry
<https://www.derryfarmcottages.com/>
1 night

Abbeyglen Castle Hotel or similar | Connemara
<https://www.abbeyglen.ie/>
1 night



The Destination

Day 7 | Aran Islands (B/L/-)

Discover the **Aran Islands**, a ruggedly beautiful trio of islands off the west coast of Ireland, known worldwide for their distinctive knitted jumpers.

This morning, we'll take a ferry to Inishmore, the largest of **the Aran Islands** - Inishmore. Consider taking a tour of the island upon arrival (**optional**). You'll have the opportunity to climb up to Dun Aengus, a 2000 year old stone fort on the cliff face, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Feel the history as we take a ride in a traditional **Horse & Trap!** You'll have time to explore the village of Kilronan, have lunch or do some shopping for hand-knitted **Aran wool sweaters** before returning back to the mainland.

Return to Galway City where you can continue your exploration and enjoy the local atmosphere in one of the many pubs and restaurants.

Day 8 | Cliffs of Moher (B/-/D)

Continue our journey, heading along the west coast towards the **Cliffs of Moher**.

The Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's top Visitor attractions, and provide some of the most breathtaking scenery in all of Ireland, out over the Atlantic Ocean.

After enjoying the fresh green scenery, we'll check you in to your hotel where you'll have some time to relax before the evening's excitement. In the evening, we'll have an authentic **Medieval Banquet** in the majestic Knappogue Castle! The Earl's Butler welcomes guests from the four corners of the world toasting an era of great Irish taste with excellent food and fine wine.

Day 9 | Bunratty & Killarney (B/-/D)

Today we will head down to Killarney. On the way we'll stop off at **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**. This park is a living reconstruction of Irish life over a century ago. Roam through the park and see the rural farmhouses, village shops and streets which have been recreated and furnished to a time that once was. Visit Bunratty Woollen Shop for your last chance to pick up some gifts. Afterwards you might like to visit 'Durdy Nelly's' traditional Irish pub for refreshments!

We'll check into your hotel in Killarney. Take some time to relax and enjoy the vibrant town of Killarney. Find a cosy traditional pub to enjoy a pint, or just wander the town and enjoy the quaint atmosphere!

Galway - County Clare

HOTEL:

4* Hotel | Galway
2 nights

3* Hotel | Clare
1 Night



The Destination

Derry - Connemara

Day 10 | Killarney (B/-/D)

Free Day to explore Killarney.

Choose from many **options** of activities in the area: *perhaps head to Killarney National Park and take in the stunning scenery of mountains, lakes and woodlands. You might like to visit to the historic Muckross House and Gardens. This 19th century mansion depicts what life was like in Ireland during this period. Alternatively enjoy a visit to the stunning Torc Waterfall which is well worth a look. If you enjoy walking, there are walking trails mapped out beside the Waterfall. Also you have options such as a lake cruise or visiting Ross Castle.*

You also have the option to visit the Torc Waterfall. Nestled at the base of Torc Mountain, Torc Waterfall is located approximately 7km on the Muckross Road, from Killarney. Standing at approximately 20 meters high, the waterfall is beautiful, rugged and at its most wild after a heavy rain downpour. The waterfall is some 70 to 80 feet high and the Owengarriff River which feeds it rises in "The Devil's Punchbowl" on nearby Mangerton Mountain.

Day 11 | Ring of Kerry (B/-/D)

Today you will take the full tour of The **Ring of Kerry**.

It one of the most popular day tours in Ireland. Along its 110 miles, you will travel around the Mac Gillicuddy Reeks and the Iveragh Peninsula, along the breathtaking Atlantic Coast, Dingle Bay and Kenmare Bay, returning to Killarney through the famed Molls Gap, Ladies View and Killarney National Park. En route, see the lovely coastal villages of Glenbeigh, Waterville and Sneem and the thriving market towns of Killorglin and Caherciveen. The Ring showcases so many points of historic and archaeological interest.

As part of your trip, you will visit a local **sheep farm** and see a demonstration of sheepdogs at work!

This evening you will enjoy a **Traditional Irish Night** at Kate Kearney's, which consists of dinner, traditional music and costumed dancers! This will be a night to remember!

HOTELS:

4* Lake Hotel | Killarney

3 nights



The Destination

Kerry - Dublin

Day 12 | Dingle & Sleah Head (B/L/-)

We'll see even more stunning sights today as we tour the spectacular Dingle Peninsula, one of Ireland's most picturesque spots. Visit the town of **Dingle**, a quaint town and fishing port, before driving around Sleah Head to admire its rugged beauty.

Visit the Blasket Island Center, and learn about the unique community who lived on the remote Blasket Islands until their evacuation in 1953.

Stop and visit the **Gallarus Oratory** - a 7th century stone chapel used by pilgrims going to Mount Brandon, and considered the oldest Christian church on the territory of Ireland. Continue onto Killarney for your overnight stay. Evening at your leisure. We suggest you visit The Danny Man - Killarney's "famous singing pub" and enjoy some traditional Irish music!

Day 13 | Blarney & Dublin (B/-/D)

We'll get back on the road, and travel past Cork, on to Blarney. This city is home to the famous 15th century Blarney Castle. Enjoy a stroll through the estate, up to the castle and then climb to the top to kiss the Blarney Stone. It is said that you will obtain the gift of eloquent speech by kissing the stone. Let's see if it works!

We'll continue our travels to Dublin. This evening, the last night of our tour together, we'll have dinner together in a traditional Irish restaurant.

After, you have the **option** to participate in Dublin's Traditional Musical Pub Crawl. Experience the vibrancy of Dublin's traditional drinks through its character filled pubs and bars, while listening to traditional folk music and dancing the night away.

Day 14 TOUR END DATE | Dublin (B/-/-)

After a free morning to stock up on souvenirs we will transfer you to the airport where, sadly, we will have to say our goodbyes!

HOTELS:

Ashling Hotel or similar | Dublin

<https://www.ashlinghotel.ie/>

1 night



Tour Details

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Airport Transfers
- All land transportation
- Escorted tour with full time Tour Leader
- Tour in English
- 2 meals a day
- 12 nights in hand-Selected hotels & 1 night Castle Stay
- All Events included in the Itinerary
- Internet in hotels when possible
- Interaction with local artists, craftsmen, and performers
- Special events exclusively for Cobblestone travellers
- Cobblestone Freeway t-shirt

NOT INCLUDED:

- Extra days before/after the tour
- Events and Services not included in the itinerary or marked as **Optional**
- Alcoholic beverages
- Meals not listed in Itinerary
- Flights not listed in Itinerary
- Tips for guides / drivers/ maids
- Travel Insurance
- Laundry & Telephone Services



OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

- Extend your trip
- Upgrade your room / Get a single room

On our Cobblestone Freeway Tour, enjoy:

Delicious, hand chosen local food, and more inclusions than most other tour operators



Enjoy exclusive Folk dance/ music performances



You will be escorted by a full-time Cobblestone Freeway Tour Leader



ULTIMATE IRELAND TOUR 14 Days / 13 Nights

TOUR DATES & PRICES:

May 18-31, 2022 \$ 5,806 USD

Prices subject to change.
Secure this price with your full \$500 USD deposit.

TOUR LAND PRICE:

Per Person, Based on Double Occupancy
Single Supplement \$1,740 USD

Early Bird Discount: Save \$200 USD if you
book at least 6 months prior to tour date.

Does not include Airfare or Travel Insurance



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