

## ENCHANTING IRELAND 8 NIGHTS

**Day 1: Destination Ireland:** The adventure begins with an overnight flight to enchanting Ireland. Dinner and a light breakfast are served onboard before an early morning landing in Dublin.

**Day 2: Dublin:** After arriving in Dublin and collecting our baggage we will board our coach and meet our coach driver and tour guide. As we leave the airport our journey begins with a city tour of Dublin which was first settled by the Vikings in 841, Dublin today is one of Europe's most popular cities. Our tour will include a scenic drive along the River Liffey, through neighborhoods of superbly maintained Georgian homes, and past Dublin's most historic landmarks. We'll see St. Patrick's Cathedral, Phoenix Park, Europe's largest enclosed park. Dublin Castle, the National Parliament, Trinity university, the Millennium Spire, the Daniel O'Connell Memorial and St. Stephens Green are also included in our city Tour. This afternoon is again free to enjoy this wonderfully historic city.

**Day 3: Dublin** - This morning we are off to Glendalough a monastery established by St. Kevin in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The afternoon is free to enjoy the sights of Dublin you may want to visit the Book of Kells at Trinity University or take a tour where Guinness is brewed.

**Day 4: Blarney Castle** – We are off the Blarney to visit Blarney Castle and its legendary “Blarney Stone”. For those daring enough to ascend the castle's narrow steps, a kiss on the stone guarantees one “the gift of gab”. The Blarney Woolen Mills are nearby for those who wish to some shopping for Irish gifts. We are then off to Killarney where we will be staying for the next 2 nights.

**Day 5: Ring of Kerry** – We depart early this morning for a spectacular 100 mile journey around the “Ring of Kerry”. We will experience breathtaking seascapes, gently rolling hills, quaint Irish villages, high mountain passes, beautiful lakes and streams, and every shade of green that exists! We'll make stops at the fascinating Bog Village, the coastal village of Waterville, spectacular Coomakista Pass, the charming village of Sneem, Moll's Gap and the Lakes of Killarney. We will return to Killarney for our final night in beautiful southwest Ireland.

**Day 6: Cliff's of Moher and Burren** – As we head north to Galway we will stop at one of the most breathtaking natural

sites in all of Ireland...the Cliffs of Moher. This sheer rock wall of cliffs, towering 650 feet up from the Atlantic, extend for 8 miles along the Irish coast. We will be also going to the Burren a huge field of limestone slabs that look a little greener than the surface of the moon. Underground is full of caves that have been hollowed out by millions of years of water. As we arrive in Galway we will have time to explore this beautiful coastal town on the banks of the Corrib River.

**Day 7: Free Day** – or \*optional Aran Islands trip – Your day will begin with either a relaxing day in Galway to catch up on sleep or explore the city by visiting the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, take a cruise on the River Corrib, see Lynch's Castle (once the city's grandest 16<sup>th</sup> century townhouse, now a bank), or take in the city's nearby Salthill beach. Or, you can join us as we journey to the legendary Aran Islands by Ferry to Inishmore. The island's stunningly austere landscape is enhanced by the spectacular coastal views and sheer cliffs that drop down to the Atlantic. The island is dotted with beehive forts and several large prehistoric stone forts, a legacy remaining from the land's earliest inhabitants. If you look over to the coast of Ireland you will be able to see Connemara.

**Day 8: Clifden** – As we make our way out of Galway we head to Kylemore Abbey the imposing castle built by Mitchell Henry for his wife in the 1850's, now an Abbey run by the Benedictine Nuns.

**Day 9: Dublin** – As we make our way back to Dublin through County Mayo we will pass through Ireland's historic Midlands, the spiritual and political seat of Celtic power in ancient Ireland. Rolling grasslands and bogs, dotted with scenic lakes dominate the region. We'll be making an interesting stop at Locke's Whiskey Distillery in the town of Kilbeggan. Founded in 1757, Locke's claims to be the oldest “pot still” distillery in the world. We continue on to Dublin for our final night in this truly breathtaking country.

**Day 10:** Depart for the U.S.

**This itinerary is subject to change based on arriving and departing either out of Dublin or Shannon Airports**