

Ireland Tour April 12 – April 22, 2014



Day 1 : Saturday 12 April 2014 – Flight from Charlotte to Dublin

Take your flight to Dublin as follows:

US 820N 12APR J Charlotte (CLT) – Philadelphia (PHL) 550P - 728P
US 722N 12APR J Philadelphia (PHL) - Dublin (DUB) 900P - 845A 13APR

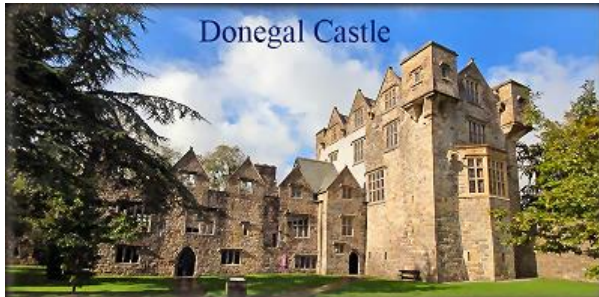
Day 2 : Sunday 13 April 2014 - Dublin Touring & Glasnevin Museum

Start your tour at Dublin Airport at 0845hrs. Group transfer to Glasnevin Cemetery, Ireland's national necropolis, which is a who's who of modern Irish history as the final resting place of Daniel O'Connell, Michael Collins, Charles Stewart Parnell, Brendan Behan and other prominent people. Afterwards, continue to the city centre for lunch (own expense). In the afternoon, tour central Dublin as you drive past Leinster House, the seat of government, and St. Stephen's Green. Cross the River Liffey to see O'Connell Street and pause at the Famine Memorial. Walk through Trinity College to visit the Old Library where the priceless 8th century manuscript of the Book of Kells is housed.

Continue to your hotel which is located in Clontarf, the Suburb where Ireland's High King – Brian Boru defeated the Viking King Sitric of Dublin in 1014. Enjoy a welcome drink with your tour director followed by dinner in your lovely castle hotel. (D)



Day 3 : Monday 14 April 2014 - Boyne Valley Neolithic Tombs & Donegal Castle



This morning visit the Boyne Valley Visitor Centre to learn about the passage burial tombs of Newgrange and Knowth, both of which are over 5,000 years old. Visit one of the tombs to see how primitive people managed to align these buildings precisely with the sun or the moon. Drive through the central lakeland region of Ireland to Donegal town for a tour of Donegal Castle, built by the O'Donnell chieftain in the 15th century. The castle was expanded in the 17th century and today is furnished throughout. Check in to your nearby hotel. (B, D)

Day 4 : Tuesday 15 April 2014 - Slieve League Cliffs & Glengesh Pass

Head to the fishing port of Killybegs and on to Teelin to view Slieve League sea cliffs, where the highest point reaches 1,972 feet making them the highest in Europe. Enjoy breathtaking vistas as they drop to the wild Atlantic waves below.

Sample home-baked scones with coffee or tea before continuing to Malinbeg for great views and through the majestic Glengesh Pass. In Ardara visit Triona Design to see demonstrations of spinning, weaving and knitting.

Enjoy free time in Donegal town before returning to your hotel. (B, D)



Day 5 : Wednesday 16 April 2014 - Belleek & Museum of Country Life



Visit the Belleek Pottery Factory to see how the craftspeople shape and decorate clay, creating the world-famous fine china.

Pause at Drumcliffe Churchyard to view the grave of W. B. Yeats, the Nobel prize-winning poet, who based many poems on the delightful countryside around Sligo.

Continue through County Mayo to Castlebar to visit the Museum of Country Life. See collections of domestic goods in daily use from 1850 to 1950. Exhibits and a movie explain how rural people made a living from the soil.

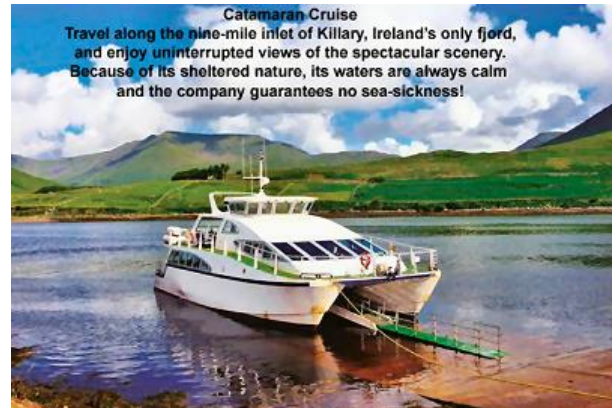
Drive to Galway and check in to your hotel. (B, D)

Day 6 : Thursday 17 April 2014 - Connemara Life & Catamaran Cruise

Today explore scenic Connemara to admire how constantly-changing cloud formations give granite hills, sparkling lakes and peat bogs an added dimension. Travel alongside Galway Bay and stop at Standun of Spiddal for coffee and a talk on various aspects of Irish life and traditional crafts.

In Leenane embark on a short cruise of Killary Harbour, a 9-mile fjord. Enjoy views of hills where traces of "lazy beds" of potato ridges from the 19th century and earlier can still be seen.

In Moycullen visit the Connemara Celtic Crystal Factory, which creates intricate designs in crystal, and return to Galway. (B, D)



Day 7 : Friday 18 April 2014 - Cliffs of Moher & Foynes Flying Boat Museum



Travel around Galway Bay to view the Cliffs of Moher, an impressive wall of rock that plunges to the Atlantic Ocean.

Continue to Bunratty for a brief stop at Dirty Nelly's Pub or the Bunratty Woollen Mills before driving through Limerick and along the Shannon Estuary.

Visit the Foynes Flying Boat Museum, which recalls the early days of air travel, during the 1930's and early 1940's.

Arrive in Killarney, check in to your hotel and relax before dinner. (B, D)

Day 8 : Saturday 19 April 2014 - Ring of Kerry & Skellig Experience

Take a drive around the Ring of Kerry where every bend in 100 miles of road reveals breathtaking views. Meet a local farmer, Brendan Ferris, for a taste of farm life with a sheepdog demonstration of herding flocks.

At the tip of the peninsula visit the Skellig Experience, which explains the history, flora and fauna on the nearby rocky islands. Return through the attractive village of Sneem and pause at Moll's Gap for panoramic views of Killarney and its lakes.



Back in Killarney enjoy free time for independent activities and dining. (B)



Day 9 : Sunday 20 April 2014 - Blarney Castle & Merry Ploughboy Pub

Drive through County Cork to Blarney Castle to climb to the ramparts and kiss the famous stone. Also visit the Blarney Woollen Mills where quality Irish-made products are gathered under one roof. Drive north and pause for photos at the stately Rock of Cashel, a limestone outcrop with picturesque ruins and continue to Dublin. This evening is at leisure to enjoy Dublin's eateries formal or informal, from your downtown hotel. A few minutes walking will see you in the heart of the lively Temple Bar district, with its myriad of dining pubs and restaurants. (B)

Day 10 : Monday 21 April 2014 - Extra Day in Dublin

Spend a full day at leisure in Dublin and see the city at your own pace on an independent Dublin open-top bus tour pass (valid for 48 hours) with a visit to Guinness Storehouse or Old Jameson Distillery to sample a complimentary pint or a shot.

In the evening head by group transfer to the Merry Ploughboy Pub for Irish cuisine and a lively session of traditional songs. (B, D)



Day 11 : Tuesday 22 April 2014 - Depart for Home

This morning, group transfer to Dublin Airport. Breakfast is possible (B). Take your flight back home:

US 723L 22APR T Dublin (DUB) – Philadelphia (PHL) 1110A - 145P
US 751L 22APR T Philadelphia (PHL) - Charlotte (CLT) 330P - 511P

Highlights:

- Deluxe Clontarf Castle Dinner & Overnight
- Merry Ploughboy Pub Evening
- Boyne Valley Neolithic Tombs
- Slieve League Sea Cliffs
- Ring of Kerry Tour

Hotels (or similar – no services booked):

Clontarf Castle Hotel, Dublin (1 night)
Mill Park Hotel, Donegal (2 nights)
Hotel Meyrick, Galway (2 nights)
Killarney Avenue Hotel, Killarney (2 nights)
Trinity Capital Hotel, Downtown Dublin (2 nights)

TOUR PRICE PER PERSON (based on a minimum of 20 persons):

In a double/twin room: Only \$2990.00
Single Room Supplement Euros 375

Alternate Flight Offer – Must be booked and Paid For At Time of Booking
AerLingus Airlines

\$1030 a savings of almost \$200 per person

April 12 Charlotte to Chicago Flight 6505 Depart 9:50 am arrive 10:49 am

April 12 – 13 Chicago to Dublin Flight 122 Depart 3:50 pm arrive 5:15 am on the 13th

April 22 Dublin to Chicago Flight 123 Depart 11:25 am arrive 1:45 pm

April 22 Chicago to Charlotte Flight 6497 Depart 4:15 pm arrive 7:04 pm

Please call Ginny Simmons as soon as possible to make arrangements for this flight. 843-450-6864

Ireland Tour Includes:

- ✓ Sightseeing by luxury coach as indicated
- ✓ Group Airport transfer at start and end of tour
- ✓ Professional driver/guide
- ✓ 9 nights in hotels listed
- ✓ Full breakfast daily (B) except on day 1
- ✓ 7 dinners (D) including:
 - Welcome dinner at Clontarf Castle Hotel
 - Merry Ploughboy Pub dinner and traditional show
 - 5 table d'hote dinners
- ✓ Welcome get-together drink
- ✓ Tour of Dublin with a local guide
- ✓ Slieve League sea cliffs followed by home-baked scones with coffee or tea
- ✓ Killary Fjord Catamaran Cruise
- ✓ Sheepdog trials on Ring of Kerry
- ✓ Dublin open-top bus tour with a visit and drink at Guinness Storehouse or Old Jameson Distillery
- ✓ Visits and admissions to Glasnevin Museum, Book of Kells at Trinity College, Boyne Valley Visitor Centre & Newgrange or Knowth Tomb, Donegal Castle, Triona Design, Belleek Pottery Factory, W. B. Yeats' Grave, Museum of Country Life, Connemara Celtic Crystal Factory, Cliffs of Moher, Foynes Flying Boat Museum, Skellig Experience, Blarney Castle and Blarney Woollen Mills
- ✓ All local taxes, hotel service charges & portorage for one suitcase per person
- ✓ PDF Tour Information

Tour Excludes:

- Lunches
- Beverages
- Dinners Day 7 & 8
- Services of a Personal Nature
- Driver/Guide Tipping