



EMERALD ISLE CUP

Limerick, Ireland

FLY-DRIVE TOUR OPTIONS

Car rental booked separately

For guests who prefer to drive a rental car and enjoy a tour of Ireland at their own leisure, a fly-drive tour is the perfect option. Book one of the below packages and all accommodation will be pre-booked for you. A suggested itinerary will give you a good idea of the highlights to visit along the way, but you have the flexibility to adjust each day as you prefer. Your preferred car rental option can be booked separately.

We are also happy to tailor make a tour for you if you prefer an alternative itinerary to the suggestions given here.

Suggested Tours:

NORTH WEST – 6 DAY TOUR

SOUTH WEST – 6 DAY TOUR



NORTH-WEST FLY DRIVE TOUR

PRICE

€495 per person sharing in 4 star hotels

Single room supplement – €230 p.p.

PRICE INCLUDES

- ✓ 5 nights' accommodation at hotel, all rooms with private bath or shower (2 nights in Galway, 2 nights in Donegal and 1 night in Dublin)
- ✓ Dublin Hop-On / Hop-Off Bus Pass
- ✓ Dublin Pass
- ✓ Service charges and taxes at existing rates

No gratuities included

Car rental can be booked separately.



ITINERARY

Day 1 – Cliffs of Moher & Burren to Galway

Make your way to the car rental location in Limerick and collect your rental car.

Depart Limerick for Galway. En route, drive through **The Burren Region**

The Burren landscape covers over 150 square kilometres and is one of Ireland's 6 National Parks. The region is visually similar to a moonscape, yet shelters a mixture of flora and archaeological sites which have attracted visitors for centuries. Man came here over 6000 years ago, cleared the forests and set in motion soil erosion. Centuries of weathering has produced a terrain of fissured limestone pavements, disappearing lakes, terraced mountains, and underground cave systems. For millennia man has left his mark, megalithic tombs and cooking sites litter the pavements, while medieval tower houses and churches guard the valleys. Today man is absent from most of the upland, leaving behind ancient field systems, route ways and place names. Today's visitors to the Burren will find Arctic, Alpine and Mediterranean plants growing together.



Continue on and visit **Cliffs of Moher**

Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren region, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O'Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O'Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, to entertain his lady friends. A visit of the tower is also possible. The sweeping view across the Atlantic has recently been ranked the best 'cliff-view' on the planet by Conde Nast Traveler. The respected travel publication has voted the world-famous landmark at the top of a new chart of ' Nine Gorgeous Cliff Views that Rival the Grand Canyon'.



Continue to Galway with some time at leisure to enjoy this city, known as The City of Tribes. Galway City, located at the mouth of Galway Bay, is both a picturesque and lively city with a wonderful avant-garde culture and a fascinating mixture of locally owned speciality shops, often featuring locally made crafts. Indeed local handcrafts are a feature of the entire region including hand knits, pottery, glass, jewellery and woodwork

Continue to Galway and check in to your hotel

Overnight bed and full Irish breakfast at your Galway hotel

Day 2 – Connemara

Today depart Galway and drive West of Galway to tour the **Connemara Region**

Connemara is a land of lakes, rivers, bogs and mountains. A land of small villages where Gaelic is still the spoken language and where little has changed since the beginning of time. It is without a doubt the wildest and the most romantic part of Ireland. Connemara is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the south ~ a land characterised for its stone walls and thatched cottages. On its northern shore the land is harsher and more secret, with spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean and the beautiful fjord of Killary Harbour, as well as the steep mountains overlooking numerous lakes and large bog areas.

Perhaps you would like to visit **Kylemore Abbey and Walled Gardens**. Set in a dramatic landscape and originally built as a castle in 1867 as a romantic gift, Kylemore is steeped in history and tales of tragedy and romance, engineering initiatives, model farms, royal visits, spirituality and education. Home to Ireland's only Benedictine community of nuns since 1920, this 1000 acre estate has much to offer. Experience the Victorian atmosphere of the restored rooms of the Abbey, miniature Gothic Church and Head Gardener's House. There are many nature trails, woodland and lakeshore walks which are waiting to be discovered. Explore the magical 6 acre Victorian walled garden where only Victorian varieties of flowers and vegetables are grown. Vegetables and herbs from the garden are used in the café where traditional home cooked food is made to the recipes of the Benedictine nuns. The tea house by the walled garden is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the breath-taking views over Connemara National Park.



Return to Galway in the afternoon

Overnight bed and full Irish breakfast at your Galway hotel

Day 3 – Donegal

Today depart Galway and travel to the more unexplored part of Ireland, County Donegal

Enroute perhaps you would enjoy stops at the following sites:

Florence Court House

This Palladian mansion is named after the wife of John Cole, who settled in the area in the early 18th century. One of the chief glories of **Florence Court** is the exceptional embellished rococo plasterwork, seen at its best at the top of the stairs and in the dining room. This probably dates from 1755 and is in the style of Robert West, Dublin's leading 18th century stuccodore. The house contains fine Irish furniture including an 18th century rococo armchair in the library, an Irish writing cabinet, which dates from 1730 and an unusual 18th century bed.. A large area of parkland, garden and woodland, including the recently restored walled garden surrounds the house. Florence Court's most notable tree, the Irish Yew, grows in a much wilder part of the estate. This is the aged mother of all the Irish Yews. The original was one of two found in the Fermanagh hills in the 1740s.

Continue to **Belleek Pottery**. Belleek Pottery has been producing high quality Parian China at their factory in Belleek since its establishment in 1857. Visitors are invited to visit the factory and to see first-hand, how this world-renowned pottery is created. The visit commences with a short audio-visual followed by a 20-minute tour of the factory during which the visitor will see the pottery being removed from its moulds, being fired and decorated by the Belleek artists. There is an excellent retail shop and café / restaurant which serves its wares on Belleek china.

Overnight bed and full Irish breakfast at your Donegal hotel



Day 4 – County Donegal

Spend a full day exploring County Donegal. The rugged Donegal coast has a shoreline etched with a multitude of beautiful bays and glorious sandy beaches. Donegal remains as one of the last true wildernesses left in Europe. It is a land that is a haven to the deer, fox, badger and hare, watched from above by the magnificent silent-winged Golden Eagle.

Visit to **Glenveagh National Park and Castle**. Some 16,540 hectares (40,873 acres) of mountains, lakes, glens and woods, with a herd of red deer. A Scottish style castle is surrounded by one of the finest gardens in Ireland, which contrast with the rugged surroundings. The visitor centre houses exhibitions and an audio-visual show. Built in the years 1870 – 1873, Glenveagh Castle consists of a four storey rectangular keep.



Overnight bed and full Irish breakfast at your Donegal hotel

Day 5 – To Dublin

Travel to Ireland's Capital, Dublin City, return your rental car and enjoy a day at leisure

Your package include a **Hop on Hop off** ticket however as well as a **Dublin Pass** for the day!

The Hop-on Hop-off Bus Tour allows you experience all the history and culture of Dublin in one visit.

There are two routes on the tour, the Original route is 90 minutes long and brings you to Dublin's most popular attractions along 23 conveniently located stops. You can visit Dublin Zoo, the Guinness Storehouse, the Book of Kells in Trinity College and much more. You'll also see where famous Dubliners like James Joyce, Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett lived and spent their time.



The second route is through Dublin's Docklands, and takes 35 minutes with 8 stops including The Jeanie Johnston Famine Memorial ship. You can also hop-off at Stop 7 to take a [Dublin Bay Cruise](#) to either Howth or Dún Laoghaire. Buses start at 9am daily, and arrive at each stop every 10-15 minutes. You'll enjoy live commentary from accredited drivers, all native Dubliners who will charm and entertain you.

Your Dublin Pass (valid 1 day) allows you to include various visits during the day and also to enjoy some nice discounts with local suppliers.

Overnight bed and full Irish breakfast at your Dublin hotel

Day 6 - Farewell

Depart for Dublin Airport and your return flight home



SOUTH-WEST FLY DRIVE TOUR

PRICE

€525 per person sharing in a 4 star hotel

Single room supplement – €235 p.p.

PRICE INCLUDES

- ✓ 5 nights' accommodation at hotel, all rooms with private bath or shower (2 nights in Killarney, 1 night in Cork, 1 night in Kilkenny and 1 night in Dublin)
- ✓ Dublin Hop-On / Hop-Off Bus Pass
- ✓ Dublin Pass
- ✓ Service charges and taxes at existing rates

No gratuities included

Car rental can be booked separately.



ITINERARY

Day 1 – Dingle Peninsula

Make your way to the car rental location in Limerick and collect your rental car.

Travel southwards into County Kerry. We suggest driving to Killarney via the **Dingle Peninsula**

Enjoy a short tour on the Dingle Peninsula and in particular along the magnificent Slea Head – famed for its lovely beaches, its ancient monuments and also as a Gaeltacht – one of the last remaining areas in Ireland where the locals speak Irish or Gaelic on a daily basis. Slea Head is well known as a key film location – Ryan's Daughter and Far and Away were both filmed here. The original schoolhouse from Ryan's Daughter is located just beside the Blasket Island Centre. On Slea Head the blue of the marine landscape surrounds the Blasket Islands, deserted since 1953. In the distance are the two rocky Skellig islands, where the ruins of an early Christian Monastery can be found. The peninsula will charm you with its villages painted in bright colours and will bewitch you with the dramatic beauty of its landscapes.



Continue to Killarney and check into your hotel

Overnight and full Irish breakfast at your Killarney Hotel

Day 2 – Ring of Kerry

Ring of Kerry Tour – this morning depart for your own tour on one of Ireland's most talked about peninsulas.

A superb tour of the Iveragh Peninsula will give you the opportunity to discover the Ring of Kerry. Taking in spectacular scenery – mountains, peat bogs, lakes and magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean as one travels along the coast road. Leaving Killarney you pass through Killorglin, famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula and Dingle Bay. Continuing to Cahirciveen one passes the birthplace of National hero, Daniel O'Connell. Passing through the peat bogs one arrives at the seaside town of Waterville. Charlie Chaplin used to have his holiday home in Waterville and you can see his statue in the centre of the village. Continue to Sneem Village, famous because of its brightly coloured houses. The road continues through the mountains to Molls Gap and Ladies View with superb views of the famous Lakes of Killarney. The last part of



the tour will be through The Killarney National Park which features beautiful lakes and mountain sceneries. The park is famous for its native natural habitats and species including oak holly woods, yew woods and red deer.



Spend some time in the afternoon time at your leisure in Killarney. The town of Killarney is bursting with life and beauty. Located beside Killarney National Park, the scenic location of the town overlooked by the mountains and bordered by the lakes, makes it a must see.

Overnight bed and full Irish breakfast at your Killarney hotel

Day 3 – Cork

This morning depart County Kerry and travel to Cork.

Travel directly to Cork to explore Cork City for the remainder of your day

Explore **Cork City** and visit the English Market and Cork City Gaol. Cork (Corcaigh in Irish) is the second city of the Republic of Ireland. The principal city, too, of County Cork and of the province of Munster. The River Lee flows through the city, an island in the river forming the main part of the city centre just before the Lee flows into Lough Mahon and thence to Cork Harbour, one of the world's largest natural harbours. The city is a major Irish seaport — with quays and docks sited along the broad waterway of the Lee on the city's East side. The city's name is derived from an Irish word meaning "marshy place", referring to its situation on the River Lee. Cork has a reputation for independence running from the times of Viking invasions to the Irish Civil War, which has given it the nickname of "the Rebel County". It is usual for Corkonians to refer to Cork as the "true capital of Ireland". (Dublin was a foreign stronghold for most of its history).

The English Market in Cork City centre is a covered market for fish, fruit, meat and vegetable with entrances on Princes Street, Patrick Street and the Grand Parade. The origins of the market can be traced back to James 1st in 1610, but the present building dates from 1786. The tradition of the market is for meat and fish selling and you'll see butchers walking around wearing white coats covered in blood. But in recent years the range of food available has broadened considerably to include fruit and vegetables, as well as an organic stall, a traditional French deli stall, an olive stall, a cheese and pasta stall which also serves coffee and a bread stall.

The **Old Cork City Gaol**, now a hugely popular heritage centre, has an atmosphere you could cut with a knife. From the moment you step through the forbiddingly high gateway and see furtive twisted figures half-hidden in the dim gloom, you seem to have returned to Victorian times, when stealing a loaf of bread could mean transportation, and poaching a deer, death. Founded in the 1840s, the gaol is preserved exactly as it would have looked in the 19th century, with stark corridors, iron staircases, barred windows, and cells with the original graffiti still on the walls, scratched by hands long since laid to rest. Many thousands were transported from here on convict ships to America and Australia; now their descendants return to complete the missing piece of family history. It'll send a shiver down your back - especially if you see one of the ghosts - but it's an experience to be enjoyed.



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Overnight, bed and full Irish breakfast at your hotel in Cork

Day 4 – Kilkenny

Depart Cork for the medieval city of **Kilkenny**

Visit **Kilkenny Castle**

One of the most instantly recognised buildings in Ireland, Kilkenny Castle has been an important site since it was built by the Anglo-Normans in the 12th century. The castle has been remodelled in Victorian times and set in extensive parklands which was the principal seat of the Butler family, Marquesses and Dukes of Ormonde. Due to major restoration works, the central block now includes a library, drawing room, and bedrooms decorated in 1830's splendour, as well as the beautiful Long Gallery. A suite of former servant's rooms is now the Butler Art Gallery, which mounts frequently changing exhibitions of contemporary art. The Parade Tower is the Castle's conference venue.



Visit [Ballykeefe Distillery](#). Ballykeefe is a truly Artisan and fully Irish owned on farm Distillery producing a super-premium whiskey, truly exceptional gin and a special vodka. Situated in the heartland of the medieval capital of Ireland. Ballykeefe is steeped in rich Irish culture and traditions, these are combined with the very best of today's technology and practices to ensure lowest carbon footprint and highest levels of sustainability.

Overnight bed and full Irish breakfast at your Kilkenny hotel

Day 5 – To Dublin

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