

CLASSIC IRELAND

ITINERARY

DAY
1

DAY 1: ARRIVAL DAY IN DUBLIN

Upon your arrival in **Dublin**, you will be greeted by a private driver who will take you directly to your accommodation. Immerse yourself in the eclectic mixture of heritage sites, museums and historic pubs. Take a stroll along the cobbled streets of the **Temple Bar** district, grab a pint at the **Guinness Storehouse** for a taste of the world-famous beer or visit the historic Trinity College to see the ancient **Book of Kells**. You could enjoy an afternoon tea sightseeing tour of the city on a vintage bus or stroll along the characterful **O'Connell Street** filled with interesting shops and landmark buildings.

Spend the night in Dublin.

Attractions: Book of Kells and Old Library, Dublin, Guinness Storehouse, Temple Bar District, Trinity College Dublin

DAY
2

DAY 2: TOWARDS THE IRISH WEST COAST

Today, start your road trip towards the west coast, passing through the beautiful midlands. Your first stop is **Trim Castle** where you can learn about Irish history at the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland. You could also make a pit stop at **Kilbeggan Distillery** to see how the local whiskey is made. Later, we recommend roaming around the atmospheric ruins of **Clonmacnoise**. Finally, arrive in **Galway**, a lively city by the Atlantic Ocean. The colourful city is the perfect place to taste some Irish delicacies with its famous food scene and numerous pubs.

Spend the night in the Galway area.

Driving distance: 229 km / 142 miles

Attractions: Clonmacnoise, Galway, Kilbeggan Distillery, Trim Castle

DAY
3

DAY 3: DISCOVER RUGGED CONNEMARA

Visit the striking region of Connemara with its landscapes characterised by rugged mountains, white sand beaches, picturesque lakes and heathlands. Stop by **Killary harbour**, Ireland's only true fjord with a length of 16km (9.9miles). Further along, visit **Kylemore Abbey** where you can admire spectacular Gothic architecture and take a stroll in the Victorian Walled Garden.

For a more leisurely day, you can opt for a boat trip to the **Aran Islands**. These three windswept islands are one of the few places where the Gaelic language, culture and music still truly thrive.

Spend another night in the Galway area.

Driving distance around Connemara: 214 km / 133 miles

Driving distance to Aran Islands: 76 km / 47 miles

Attractions: Aran Islands, Clifden, Connemara National Park, Killary Harbour, Kylemore Abbey

DAY

4

DAY 4: CLIFFS OF MOHER & LIMESTONE LANDSCAPES

Start the day by visiting **Dunguaire Castle**. Sitting on a rocky outcrop overlooking Galway Bay, it is one of the most photographed castles in Ireland. Further ahead, explore the unique, lunar-like landscape of **The Burren**. Here you can visit the iconic portal tomb **Poulnabrone Dolmen**, one of Ireland's oldest megalithic monuments.

Next stop is the breathtaking **Cliffs of Moher**, Ireland's top tourist attraction, showcasing some of the country's most iconic coastal scenery. On a sunny day the views are expansive, but even a stormy day can be exhilarating with the powerful Atlantic below.

Spend the night in the **Doolin**/Lisdoonvarna area.

Driving distance 111 km / 69 miles

Attractions: Cliffs of Moher, Doolin, Kinvara & Dunguaire Castle, Poulnabrone Dolmen, The Burren

DAY

5

DAY 5: MEDIEVAL CASTLES & PICTURE-PERFECT VILLAGES

Start the day visiting the 15th-century **Bunratty Castle**. Here you'll also find the Bunratty Folk Park, where you can experience Irish rural life from the 1800s. We then recommend stopping at **Adare**, one of Ireland's prettiest villages with its thatched cottages housing craft shops and restaurants. In the afternoon, explore **Killarney National Park** set beneath Ireland's highest mountains. Here, you can visit the 19th-century mansion of **Muckross House**, take an optional Jaunting Car tour of the park or a boat trip on the peaceful Lough Leane, departing from the medieval **Ross Castle**.

Spend the night in the Killarney/Tralee area.

Driving distance: 206 km / 128 miles

Attractions: Adare, Bunratty Castle, Killarney, Killarney National Park, Muckross House & Abbey, Ross Castle

DAY

6

DAY 6: RING OF KERRY

Take in the magic of the **Ring of Kerry**, a classic "must do" scenic drive of the Irish countryside. Stop at **Kells Bay House**, to see its primeval forest of planted giant ferns. Other highlights include the ancient stone forts of **Caherdaniel** and **Staigue**, and Derrynane Bay with its beautiful white sand. Complete the circle with a visit to the picturesque **Torc Waterfall**. Today, you could also take an optional boat tour from the coast to see the Skellig Islands from up close. These otherworldly islands were recently featured in the *Star Wars* movies.

Spend another night in the Killarney/Tralee area.

Driving distance: 198 km / 123 miles

Attractions: Caherdaniel & Staigue Forts, Kells Bay House and Gardens, Ring of Kerry, Skellig islands, Torc Waterfall

DAY

7

DAY 7: GARNISH ISLAND & IRELAND'S SOUTH COAST

Today, you will travel over the scenic, winding Cahah Pass to the colourful village of **Glengarriff**. From here, we recommend taking a short boat trip, with the opportunity to spot a seal colony on the way, to **Garnish Island**, which features a world-renowned garden. You could also visit the 18th-century **Bantry House**.

Later, travel via **Kinsale**, a popular resort town with its picturesque yachting harbour and historic forts. Continue to **Cork**, a buzzing city with a vibrant cultural scene.

Spend the night in the Cork area.

Driving distance: 191 km / 119 miles

Attractions: Bantry House, Cork, Garnish Island, Glengarriff, Kinsale, Mizen Head

DAY

8

DAY 8: ANCIENT CASTLES & THE BLARNEY STONE

Today, you can visit **Blarney Castle**, a legendary medieval stronghold that houses the Blarney Stone, surrounded by many myths and tales. Then we recommend stopping at the photogenic harbour town of **Cobh**. It is known as the last port of call of the Titanic in 1912! Continue to Cashel, where you can visit the spectacular **Rock of Cashel**, one of Ireland's most visited attractions. The historic site is a fantastic collection of medieval buildings that span over 1000 years of history. Later, drive to **Kilkenny**, a medieval town nestled around a majestic 12th-century castle.

Spend the night in the Kilkenny area.

Driving distance: 208 km / 129 miles

Attractions: Blarney Castle, Cobh, Kilkenny, Rock of Cashel

DAY

9

DAY 9: THROUGH THE WICKLOW MOUNTAINS TO DUBLIN

If you wish to spend more time exploring Dublin, you can head straight to the city this morning.

Alternatively, we highly recommend a drive through the scenic **Wicklow Mountains** to take in the beautiful views. In the area you could visit **Glendalough**, a 6th-century monastic settlement, and the Powerscourt Estate, featuring the restored mansion **Powerscourt House**. On the estate, you will find Ireland's highest waterfall as well as magnificent gardens. Back in Dublin, enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure, perhaps with a fine Irish dinner to top off your amazing journey.

Spend the night in Dublin.

Driving distance to Dublin: 123km / 77 miles

Driving distance via Wicklow Mountains: 165km / 102 miles

Attractions: Dublin, Powerscourt House & Gardens, Wicklow Mountains & Glendalough

DAY 10: DEPARTURE

To get to Dublin Airport, you can take a taxi, or we can arrange a convenient private transfer directly from your hotel. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can use the morning to enjoy some last-minute shopping, visit one of the many attractions or simply relax and take in the atmosphere of the city one last time.

Whatever your needs, we are here to help. If you have any questions about our packages or services, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nordic Visitor | Tel: +354 578 20 80 | info@nordicvisitor.com | nordicvisitor.com