

# JEWELS OF IRELAND

DUBLIN – DUBLIN: 14 Days | 13 Nights | 13 Breakfasts | 2 Lunches | 10 Dinners



Left to right: Jaunting Car at Muckross House, Killarney © CIE; Muckross Gardens, Killarney

## Day 1: Dublin Castle & City Tour

Your Irish trip starts at 2 pm when you meet your tour director at your Dublin hotel and set out on an introductory tour of central Dublin. Visit Dublin Castle, which was the seat of power and government for many centuries. Back at your hotel enjoy a welcome drink with your tour director and fellow travelers and dine independently this evening.

## Day 2: Russborough House

Drive to Blessington for a guided tour around Russborough House, a Palladian mansion filled with interesting treasures, works of art and early photographic collections. Return to Dublin where the afternoon is free for an independent open-top bus tour with a visit to Guinness or General Post Office Museum. Head to the Taylor's Three Rock Pub for dinner with traditional music, songs and step-dancing. (B, D)

## Day 3: Blarney Castle & Kinsale

Pause for photos at the Rock of Cashel as you travel south to Blarney Castle. Climb the castle ramparts to kiss the famous 'Stone of Eloquence' or walk through the landscaped grounds. You may like to shop at the Blarney Woollen Mills for quality Irish-made goods. Drive south to Kinsale, a delightful old fishing town, which is now renowned for sailing and gourmet food. Join a local guide for a short walk around Kinsale's historic streets (B, D)

## Day 4: Cork & Killarney

Journey along the rugged coastline of County Cork, via Clonakilty and Skibbereen, passing picturesque coves and beaches. Travel to Killarney for a horse-drawn jaunting car ride through Killarney National Park to view Ross Castle. Drive along the Dingle Peninsula and sip an Irish coffee at the South Pole Inn before continuing to your charming manor-house hotel in Dingle town center. (B, D)

## Day 5: Scenic Dingle Peninsula

Explore the Dingle Peninsula to enjoy mountain and shoreline views. Visit the Blasket Centre in Dunquin to learn about the offshore Blasket Islands, inhabited until 1953 by hardy farming and fishing families. Return to Dingle and enjoy a light lunch, followed by a boat trip of Dingle Harbor and Bay for more great scenic views. (B, L)

## Day 6: Cliffs of Moher

Visit the Foynes Flying Boat Museum, which recalls air travel in the 1930s and 1940s. Drive to the Cliffs of Moher, a dramatic wall of rock that plunges to the Atlantic Ocean. Travel to either Bunratty or Knappogue Castle. Experience a medieval-style banquet with great food, songs and stories. Overnight in Ennis. (B, D)

## Day 7: Sheepdog Trials & Galway

Travel through the rounded limestone hills of the Burren to Caherconnell and watch a farmer work with skilled dogs to round up sheep. Stop in the coastal village of Ballyvaughan and drive into Galway for a guided walking tour around the central attractions. (B, D)

## Day 8: Killary Fjord Cruise

Head to Standun of Spiddal for an Irish coffee and a talk on Irish crafts. Drive through Connemara to Leenane for a catamaran cruise of Killary Harbour. At Dan O'Hara's Homestead, see traditional farming methods as well as Connemara ponies, donkeys and chickens. Savor a farmhouse lunch before returning to Galway. (B, L)

## Day 9: Lissadell House & Donegal

Drive north through County Mayo to County Sligo and tour Lissadell House, a magnificent estate that has strong connections with the 1916 Rising. Tour the Belleek Pottery Factory to see craftspeople create the renowned fine china. Stop in Donegal town for free time before driving to your hotel two miles outside the town (B, D)

## Day 10: Slieve League & Donegal

Drive along the coast to view Europe's highest sea cliffs at Slieve League, which make a sheer drop to the wild Atlantic waves and enjoy homebaked scones with coffee or tea. Visit a woolen mill to shop and see demonstrations of spinning and knitting. In the center of Donegal town tour Donegal Castle and return to your hotel. (B, D)

## Day 11: Derry & Giant's Causeway

Take a walking tour with a local guide to see Derry's medieval walls, the Diamond and St. Columb's Cathedral. Pause for photos at Dunluce Castle before exploring the Giant's Causeway, enormous hexagonal columns formed over 60 million years ago. See where 'Game of Thrones' was filmed at The Dark Hedges and along the scenic Nine Glens of Antrim. Drive to Belfast. (B, D)

## Day 12: Belfast & Cabra Castle

Tour Belfast to see Victorian buildings and the shipyards where RMS Titanic was built in 1912. Visit Titanic Belfast to learn about this famous liner through state-of-the-art displays. Drive to Kingscourt to your lovely castle hotel, built in 1760. After dinner, watch a step-dancing display (B, D)

## Day 13: Tombs & Drogheda

Visit the Boyne Valley Visitor Centre to learn about the 5,000-year-old burial tombs of Newgrange and Knowth and walk through one of them. Continue to Drogheda for a leisurely stroll around the historic town and sample locally-brewed beer in a traditional pub. Check in to your hotel and enjoy a farewell dinner in the Wm Cairnes Gastropub with live musical entertainment. (B, D)

## Day 14: Tour Ends in Drogheda

Your program ends after breakfast. Drogheda is 30 miles north of Dublin Airport so ensure you have appropriate transfer arrangements made. (B)



Belfast sculpture

## JEWELS OF IRELAND FROM \$3369 PP

FRI/SUN	👤👤	👤	FRI/SUN	👤👤	👤
31Mar–16 Apr '17	3419	4261	24–29 Sep	3829	4671
21–23 Apr	3579	4421	1–20 Oct	3499	4341
28 Apr–21 May	3869	4711	27 Oct	3369	4211
26 May–22 Sep	3969	4811			

Prices are per person in Australian Dollars and are subject to currency fluctuation.



ESCORTED COACH TOURS

