

Irish Manors And Castles

Day 1 ARRIVE IN SHANNON, IRELAND–LIMERICK. Céad míle fáilte—a hundred-thousand welcomes! After checking into your hotel, free time to relax and perhaps enjoy the hotel’s leisure amenities or explore the city. This evening, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner at your hotel. Today’s Distance: 40 mi / 65 km (D)

Day 2 LIMERICK–CLIFFS OF MOHER–GALWAY–WESTPORT. Drive to the CLIFFS OF MOHER, rising 668 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, and savor the breathtaking panorama of the Clare coast. Later this afternoon, pause in Galway, a buzzing seaside destination with colorful shops and a busy café and bar culture. Then, spend the night in Westport, elegant holiday resort voted “the best place to live in Ireland.” Today’s Distance: 145 mi / 232 km (B,D)

Day 3 WESTPORT–SLIGO–DRUMCLIFF–DONEGAL–LETTERKENNY. Begin your day with a private guided tour of iconic [LF] WESTPORT HOUSE, one of the most beautiful historic manors in Ireland, and enjoy a scone baking demonstration in the finely restored Victorian kitchen. Travel through rugged landscapes to the coastal seaport and county town of Sligo, known for its literary heritage. Visit [LF] Drumcliff to see the grave of W.B. Yeats. Continue your way through Donegal to “the Cathedral Town” of Letterkenny for an overnight stay. Today’s Distance: 134 mi / 215 km (B,D)

Day 4 LETTERKENNY–GIANT’S CAUSEWAY, NORTHERN IRELAND–ANTRIM COAST–BELFAST. This morning’s highlight is the awe-inspiring GIANT’S CAUSEWAY, composed of thousands of strangely symmetrical basalt columns jutting out to sea. Then, follow the epic [LF] Causeway Coastal Route along the Antrim Coast and admire its gorse-covered clifftops, sandy beaches, and the quaint fishing village of Glenarm. A full afternoon at leisure in Belfast, Northern Ireland’s seat of government. Today’s Distance: 136 mi / 218 km (B)

Day 5 BELFAST–CARLINGFORD, IRELAND–KINGSCOURT. Your first visit today is the fascinating TITANIC EXPERIENCE where you learn all about the building of the largest passenger steam ship, its maiden voyage, and the tragic night of April 14, 1912. Next, stop at HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE, where you will be treated to a guided tour of the official residence of the Royal Family when they are in Northern Ireland, and home of the Secretary of State. Then stop in the charming village of Carlingford on the Cooley Peninsula, known for its oyster farms and medieval buildings. Spend the next two nights in [LF] CABRA CASTLE, one of the best-known castle hotels in Ireland. Today’s Distance: 92 mi / 148 km (B,D)

Day 6 KINGSCOURT. The day is free for you to relax and enjoy the historic atmosphere of the hotel or join an afternoon optional excursion. (B)

Day 7 KINGSCOURT–DUBLIN. Make your way to the “Fair City” for an orientation drive to see statue-lined O’Connell Street, elegant Georgian squares, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and Oscar Wilde’s Trinity College. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy this vibrant city. For a taste of the Irish capital, join an optional cabaret evening with dinner and entertainment. Today’s Distance: 55 mi / 88 km (B)

Day 8 DUBLIN. Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)