

## Day 1 Independent Sightseeing in Dublin

Your tour begins when you are picked up at the airport and driven to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for independent touring in Dublin. Take a Hop-On, Hop-Off bus tour, and see all the city's highlights with the freedom to stop off to explore further as you please. Your Hop-On, Hop-Off bus ticket also gives you admission to the Little Museum of Dublin, an old Georgian townhouse with a fantastic collection of 5,000 objects telling the story of the city. Plus, you will have a voucher to admit you to one of Dublin's top attractions: the Guinness Storehouse, a seven-story attraction telling the story of Dublin's iconic beverage, complete with a pint at the Gravity Bar on the top floor; Teeling Distillery, the first new whiskey distillery to open in Dublin in 125 years; EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, telling the story of the people who left Ireland and how they shaped the world (and winner of Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction 2019); or the GPO Museum, innovatively detailing the fascinating story of the 1916 Rising, the pivotal event that led to Ireland's independence. Your evening is free to explore Dublin's many bustling pubs and restaurants as you wish.

## Day 2 Independent Sightseeing | Merry Ploughboy Pub

Enjoy the morning continuing to explore Dublin with the included vouchers, seeing its vibrant blend of ancient and modern: Trinity College, Georgian houses with colorful doors, and the modern buildings rising by the River Liffey. In the evening, head to the Merry Ploughboy Pub for a dinner of Irish specialties and a lively show with popular Irish songs and intricate step-dancing. (B, D)

## Day 3 Blarney Castle | Killarney

Your expert Driver/Guide will meet you up at your hotel so you may depart Dublin, traveling through the legendary green fields of Ireland's farmlands. Stop for photos of the stately ruins of the Rock of Cashel, rising high above the surrounding plain. Continue to Blarney Castle in Cork, where you can climb the winding staircase to kiss the legendary stone that promises the gift of the gab or wander through the beautiful gardens. Arrive in the friendly town of Killarney, picturesquely set beside lakes with Ireland's highest mountains, Macgillycuddy's Reeks, forming a backdrop. Check in to your hotel and relax before dinner. (B, D)

## Day 4 Ring of Kerry | Skellig Experience

You might choose to visit CIE Tours preferred shopping partner Moriarty's in the beautiful Gap of Dunloe, before embarking on the famed Ring of Kerry scenic drive. The winding 100-mile route reveals breath-taking coastal and mountain views, with plenty of photo stops. Pause for a casual lunch in The Moorings in Portmagee, then continue to Valentia Island, where you'll visit the Skellig Experience; it tells the story of the neighboring island of Skellig Michael, which you'll see off the coast. Learn how early Christian monks lived there in austere conditions, and how the island was used as a location for the "Star Wars" films. Stop for a stroll around the village of Sneem, with its brightly painted houses, and at Moll's Gap for panoramic views of Ireland's highest mountains. Return to Killarney to explore and dine independently. (B, L)

## Day 5 Cliffs of Moher | Medieval Castle Banquet

Leave Killarney and drive north to the Cliffs of Moher, a spectacular wall of sandstone that reaches almost 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Drive past Lahinch Golf Course, one of Ireland's most famous,

to Bunratty. Check into Bunratty Castle Hotel, which is near Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. In the evening, head out for a medieval-style feast of excellent traditional dishes. During and after the meal the lords and ladies will serenade you with songs and harp music evocative of the Middle Ages. (Please note that January departures may offer a different dining experience.) (B,D)

#### Day 6 Galway | Dublin

Travel north this morning to Galway to explore this vibrant, artistic city. Walk through its medieval streetscape, listen to the buskers performing, enjoy its many shops and cafes. Head across the country to Dublin, and say farewell to your expert Driver/Guide. Spend the final night of your tour exploring the pubs in the lively Temple Bar area or experiencing one of Dublin's fine restaurants. (B)

#### Day 7 Trip Ends in Dublin

Your trip ends after breakfast today, when you are transferred from your hotel to Dublin Airport. (B) B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner