

# enchanting isle

*A Culinary + Cultural Adventure  
in Ireland*

May 8—16, 2023

*Private  
Departure!*

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️  
EST 2014



CORK CITY

## *Ireland is a magical island with lush, fertile land and kind, smiling souls.*

This is the homeland of Guinness beer, leprechauns, picturesque craggy landscapes, and as you'll soon find out, some of the best food and drink you'll ever have. Warm Irish hospitality, lovely hotels, and beautiful views combine for an unforgettable adventure.

We'll start our tour in historic Dublin, then head south to explore southwest Ireland before heading to Killarney and the Iveragh Peninsula to take in breathtakingly beautiful scenery. Your Onward Travel guide, Molly, spent several months living and working in Ireland. She'll share her love of Ireland (it's contagious!) with you, plus our local driver/guide will delight with his sense of humor and knowledge of this gorgeous country and its people.

We'll sip whatever's on draught in the pubs, kiss the blarney stone, explore Ireland's stunning natural wonders, stroll the streets of Dublin, and enjoy becoming well acquainted with this special place.



Imagine yourself...

Sipping a perfect Guinness in Dublin

Gazing at the Cliffs of Moher and the looming Rock of Cashel

Relaxing at the landmark country inn, Ballymaloe House

## Welcome to The Emerald Isle

DAY 1: MONDAY MAY 8

- Grab the tap handle and pull your own pint of Guinness (119.5 seconds, exactly!)
- Experience fabulous modern Irish food at a charming gastropub

Arrive to Dublin at your leisure. Onward will organize arrival transfers for those arriving today to Buswells Hotel so you can drop your luggage and explore this friendly, historical city. Early afternoon, we'll convene as a group with our driver/guide and get oriented to Dublin. We'll visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, the largest church in Ireland, founded in 1191. We'll also visit the picturesque Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin Castle, and see some sights a little further afield like Phoenix Park. Our driving tour will conclude at the perfect place to toast the start of our adventure: the seven-story Guinness Storehouse. The storehouse provides a unique look at how Guinness emerged as a global brand, with 1.8 billion pints enjoyed each year. The tour culminates with a pint in the glass-enclosed gravity bar; enjoy it while gazing at 360 degree views.

We'll have a little time at our elegant home base: Buswells Hotel. After a brief respite, we'll head north to cross the River Liffey to dine at Winding Stair, an atmospheric three-story restaurant facing the river, where we'll enjoy a delicious dinner of modern Irish cuisine.

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Meals Dinner



## A Delightful Day in Dublin

DAY 2: TUESDAY MAY 9

- Start your day with a Full Irish Breakfast
- Admire the Book of Kells, a 9th-century gospel manuscript

Enjoy a leisurely morning and a full Irish breakfast in the heart of Dublin (black pudding, anyone?!). If you're up for a walk, join Molly to visit Iveagh Gardens - a National Historic Property known as Dublin's Secret Garden - and St. Stephen's Green Park. Then we're off to Trinity College to stroll the campus and see Ireland's national treasure: the Book of Kells! The commitment to local and quality food runs deep in Ireland which you'll see throughout the week. We'll have a classy lunch at Fallon & Byrne's dining room, a lovely restaurant above Dublin's premier speciality food store.

You're on your own the rest of the day to check off whatever's on your bucket list. Dublin has some amazing museums, shopping on Grafton Street, distilleries, and so much more! Maybe you'd like to grab a city bike and ride along the river banks or visit the foreboding former prison Kilmainham Gaol (pre booking essential). Onward will provide sightseeing and dining suggestions ahead of the tour.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch

## The Scenic Road to Cork

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY MAY 10

- See the Rock of Cashel in the Irish countryside, risen on a platform of 300' of rock
- Stay and dine at an Irish landmark: Ballymaloe House

After breakfast we'll meet back up with our charming guide and drive south through Ireland's countryside. Our Irish guide will share history and folklore about the island during our drive. En route, we'll make an important pitstop to explore the famous Rock of Cashel, a fortress and ancient royal site of the Kings of Munster that was a center of power as early as the 4th or 5th centuries.

One more stop before we reach our day's destination: Midleton, where we'll embark on the Jameson Distillery tour. We'll learn about Irish whiskey and of course enjoy a glass, too.

## DAILY ITINERARY Enchanting Isle May 8–16, 2023

Now we head to the West Coast, a dreamy region for food enthusiasts. We'll stay at the Ballymaloe House, a country inn that has inspired and supported food artisans for decades. Enjoy the inn and relax: croquet, bicycles, a heated pool, a 5-hole golf course, and tennis are all available and included with your stay. Stroll the grounds and admire this iconic Irish hotel. Tonight we'll dine together at the Ballymaloe House Restaurant, enjoying a 5-course dinner that is locally sourced, expertly prepared and so very Irish.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Cookery School Heaven

DAY 4: THURSDAY MAY 11

- Cookery course at world-famous Ballymaloe Cookery School
- Sip a pint in a charming, small town classic Irish pub

Enjoy a delicious breakfast in the wonderful Ballymaloe style. And enjoy time relaxing at the hotel. We'll visit nearby Shanagarry village late morning and pop into Stephen Pearce Pottery's shop to see the world famous pottery. Then we'll stretch our legs for the invigorating Ballycotton Cliff Walk, you may also hang back and enjoy the views from the small seaside village. It is beautiful to walk along the cliffs amid the meadow and ocean views.

Mid afternoon we're off for a private hands-on cookery class at Ballymaloe Cookery School, home to a 100-acre organic farm and Darina Allen, Ireland's most important chef and slow food trailblazer. We'll tour the beautiful farm and gardens, enjoy our class at the world famous cookery school, and take home a packet of recipes. After class, we'll sit down for a delicious supper. And afterwards, head off to the nearby, lively local-favorite Blackbird Pub or back to the hotel for a nightcap.

Meals Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner



### To Killarney We Go

DAY 5: FRIDAY MAY 12

- Tick an item off your bucket list: kiss the Blarney Stone
- Settle in at a grand 1820 hotel overlooking Lake Leane

Enjoy another stunning breakfast and morning at Ballymaloe, and then we're off. We're passing through Cork City this morning, so we'll make a pitstop to visit the historic English Market. You may wish to pick something up for lunch. You can't visit Ireland without kissing the Blarney Stone, the stone of eloquence, to attain the gift of gab. The castle is beautiful and the spiral staircase and precarious lean backwards to kiss the stone make great memories. The extensive gardens and massive gift shop are fun, too!

Late afternoon we'll arrive in Killarney, a charming town where there are numerous shops, restaurants, pubs, and hiking opportunities to enjoy. We're staying outside town at The Lake Hotel, a 131-room hotel that has been owned by the same family for over 100 years. Your room will have a beautiful view of Lake Leane, and the hotel is adjacent to Killarney National Park. This evening we'll enjoy a gourmet dinner at the hotel.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner



## Stories, Scenery & Sláinte!

DAY 6: SATURDAY MAY 13

- Take in Killarney National Park from a horse-drawn cart and a boat
- Enjoy a craft beer tasting experience with your travelling companions

Enjoy a nice breakfast and a slow morning. Midday we'll visit the Muckcross House and Gardens, a nineteenth-century Victorian mansion and estate poised along the shore of Muckcross Lake in Killarney National Park. If we're lucky the azaleas and rhododendrons will still be in bloom. Grab something for lunch at the Muckcross House garden restaurant.

This afternoon we'll explore the park during a jaunting car ride through the Gap of Dunloe, a picturesque narrow mountain pass. The "jaunting car" is actually a horse-drawn cart and the driver will share interesting stories during the ride. Then we'll take a cruise of Killarney National Park's lake system. The scenery is beautiful as the lakes are surrounded by the rugged McGillicuddy Mountain Range.

Enjoy time to explore Killarney late afternoon, or stretch your legs and go for a hike. Tonight we'll have a tour, craft beer tasting, and dinner at the brand new Killarney Brewing & Distilling Center, located just outside town. We'll dine on the rooftop bar. *Sláinte!*

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Ring Around the Ring of Kerry

DAY 7: SUNDAY MAY 14

- Be wowed on a scenic drive around the Ring of Kerry
- Visit Irish sheep at the Kissane Sheep Farm

Enjoy a lovely breakfast and have your camera at-the-ready because today we are driving around the iconic Ring of Kerry, characterized by coastal views and charming towns.

We'll make plenty of stops - whether for a quick photo snap, a stroll on the beach or a visit to a historical fort. Our first stop will be to visit the picturesque Kissane Sheep Farm, home to over 1000 sheep. We'll enjoy a sheepdog demonstration and see sheep being shorn, plus take in views of Moll's Gap. We will also stop during our drive for lunch and a pint at a pub. In the afternoon, we'll visit the Kerry Bog Museum to experience a reenactment of an 18th century famine village. And as always, our guide will keep us informed and entertained.

After a full day exploring the Iveragh Peninsula, enjoy the evening as you please.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch

## Irish Inspiration

DAY 8: MONDAY MAY 15

- Feel tiny and inspired at the Cliffs of Moher
- Experience small-town Irish life in Bunratty

Enjoy a low key morning in Killarney before we set off for the Cliffs of Moher. The Cliffs are absolutely striking: reaching over 700 feet above the Atlantic ocean. Some of the best views in the world, no doubt. Boxed lunches and good craic will be provided en route.

We'll end the day in a small town, Bunratty, near Shannon Airport, where we'll spend the night at a small family-run inn, Bunratty Manor Hotel. Stroll into town and visit the 15th century Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. Tonight we'll have one last festive dinner tonight at Durty Nelly's, a 1620-era thatched-roof cottage that has amazing history ("the original pub") and great food and drink, too.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## May the Road Rise to Meet You

DAY 9: TUESDAY MAY 16

We're just 10-minutes from Shannon Airport so depart from there if convenient, or join the transfer back to Dublin (2.5 hours) and fly home mid-day. Head home with wonderful memories.

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Meals Breakfast



# TRIP INFORMATION

Enchanting Isle *May 8–16, 2023*

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| BEGINS                 | Dublin, Ireland on Monday, May 8, 2023<br>Transfer provided from Dublin Airport<br>If you would like to arrive early, Onward Travel will gladly help you extend your stay  |
| ENDS                   | Shannon or Dublin, Ireland on Tuesday, May 16, 2023<br>Transfer provided to Shannon Airport (SNN) or Dublin Airport (DUB)<br>If departing from Dublin Airport please book a flight leaving after midday  |
| SUITABILITY & MOBILITY | This tour includes walking for up to 30 minutes at a time, plus stairs, uneven natural terrain and cobblestones. Travelers should be able to walk a mile at a comfortable pace. If you have limited mobility, we may be able to accommodate you, but it is essential to let us know at the time of registration. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.   |
| TRIP LENGTH            | 9 days, 8 nights   |
| LODGING                | <b>Buswells Hotel</b>   2 Nights   Elegant and centrally located with an atmospheric bar and restaurant... and they serve a full Irish breakfast!<br><b>Ballymaloe House</b>   2 Nights   Classic, ivy-covered country inn in Shanagarry with a golf course and croquet lawn.<br><b>The Lake Hotel</b>   3 Nights   Grand 1820 hotel with lake view rooms and dining, adjacent to Killarney National Park.<br><b>Banratty Manor Hotel</b>   1 Night   Small, casual, family-owned inn with an excellent restaurant.    |
| TOUR DATES & PRICES    | May 8–16, 2023<br>Double Occupancy      \$3850 per traveler<br>Single Supplement      \$700 additional<br><br>Contact Onward if you are interested in a room upgrade or triple occupancy.<br>Please note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to Ireland.<br><u>Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after the date of travel.</u><br>You are welcome to pay your trip fee by credit card, please note that a 3% processing fee will be applied. |

## Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- Eight nights accommodations.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, six lunches, and six dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences, with wine, beer, and cocktails included, of course!
- Local guide services throughout the tour to truly understand Ireland and Onward Travel host Molly at your service.
- Comfortable minibus and informative driver/guide with us throughout the tour.
- Activities, tastings, cooking classes, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.

### ***Register now!***

Visit [onwardtravel.co](https://onwardtravel.co) to complete the registration form and submit payment. \$1,250 deposit due upon booking, balance due by February 15, 2023.

## AIR TRAVEL:

The tour will start and end with transfers to/from Dublin Airport (DUB) upon arrival and departure. You may also depart from Shannon Airport (SNN). If you arrive early, an airport transfer will not be included, plan to take a taxi to the hotel. Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a “go” before booking non-refundable airfare. Contact Onward Travel for assistance or to coordinate with other travelers.

# TRIP INFORMATION *Enchanting Isle May 8–16, 2023*

## About Onward Travel

Onward Travel is a group tour operator owned and operated by sisters Molly Crist and Katerina Clauhs Dhand. Onward Travel is focused on unique, thoughtful small group tours with itineraries that are researched and pieced together carefully to ensure authentic, engaging trips that foster genuine connection to places and people. A deep love of hospitality and adventure has been in Molly and Kat's blood for generations as Onward Travel is inspired by their family's cooking school on a farm in Bucks County, PA that offered culinary-focused travel to customers for over two decades.

## Ireland in May

Late Spring is a wonderful shoulder season in Ireland. The big crowds haven't rolled in and the weather is pleasant, albeit variable. Ireland is mild year-round and the late spring temperatures range from low 50s to low 70s so plan to bring layers and prepare for possible rain. Onward Travel will provide packing notes in advance of the trip

## Miscellaneous Travel Information

- *Passports are required for American citizens travelling to Ireland. Visas are not required. Note your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of travel.*
- *Ireland is on the Euro. To determine the current exchange rate, Google "USD to EUR."*
- *Travel Protection: Onward Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. For more information on the recommended plans or to enroll, contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 32-0704.*
- *For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC #10952. 1308294*

### ***Please note:***

Onward Travel requires all travelers to provide proof of full vaccination against Covid-19 before the date of travel. All travelers will also be expected to comply with local masking regulations as well as any other customary pandemic precautions.

## Get in Touch!

Contact Onward Travel with questions or special requests:

[letsgo@onwardtravel.co](mailto:letsgo@onwardtravel.co)

845-293-2729



MUCKROSS HOUSE