

# enchanting isle

*A Culinary + Cultural Adventure  
in Ireland*

*A Self  
Guided  
Tour*

Prepared for the Turners,  
Hillmans & Johnsons  
September 1—10, 2023



*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.

Start your 8-night adventure in Ireland 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 Irish driver/guide will delight with his sense of humor and knowledge of this gorgeous country and its people.

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 magical place. Onward Travel has done all the planning to allow you to fully experience and enjoy a self-guided tour of Ireland.

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

# Itinerary

**September 1, 2023**

## **DAY 1 ~ Welcome to The Land of Smiles**

Travelers will arrive in Dublin today. You'll be met at the airport by your Irish driver/guide who will accompany you all week. It is time to get oriented to Dublin. Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, the largest church in Ireland, founded in 1191. Also visit the picturesque Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin Castle, and see some sights a little further afield like Phoenix Park. We'll make time for a light lunch before checking in to your character-ful home base: Buswells Hotel. The rest of the day is yours to ease into your travel adventure.

- **Meals included:** *Lunch*
- Van transportation - airport pick up and city tour
- St. Patrick's Cathedral admission, Christ Church Cathedral admission

**September 2, 2023**

## **DAY 2 ~ Delicious Dublin**

Mid-day meet up with your travel companions to get a taste of Dublin. Nosh around the city with a local guide trying Irish specialties and learning about the city as you go at a handful of independent foodie businesses. Then, head to 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. Savor a pint in the glass-enclosed gravity bar; enjoy it while gazing at 360 degree views. The evening is yours to enjoy as you please.

- **Meals included:** *Lunch*
- Dublin Food Tour, Guinness Storehouse experience

**September 3, 2023**

## **DAY 3~ A Delightful Day in Dublin**

Enjoy a leisurely morning and a full Irish breakfast in the heart of Dublin (black pudding, anyone?!). If you're up for a walk, visit Iveagh Gardens - a National Historic Property known as Dublin's Secret Garden - and St. Stephen's Green Park. Mid morning, we've booked you tickets to see Ireland's national treasure: the Book of Kells! Head over to Trinity College to experience this illuminated manuscript that dates to the 9th century. The rest of the day is yours 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).

This evening, head north to cross the River Liffey to dine at Winding Stair, an atmospheric three-story restaurant facing the river where you'll enjoy a delicious dinner of modern Irish cuisine.

- **Meals included:** *Breakfast, Dinner*
- Book of Kells admission with audio tour

**September 4, 2023**

**DAY 4 ~ The Scenic Route to West Cork**

After breakfast your charming guide will pick you up at the hotel and you'll drive south through Ireland's countryside. Your guide will share history and folklore about the island during the drive. En route, make a 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 you reach the day's destination: Midleton, where you will embark on the Jameson Distillery tour. Learn about Irish whiskey and of course enjoy a glass, too.

Now head to the West Coast, a dreamy region for food enthusiasts. Check in at Ballymaloe House, a country inn that has inspired and supported food artisans for decades. Tonight dine together at the Ballymaloe House Restaurant, enjoying a 5-course dinner that is locally sourced, expertly prepared and so very Irish.

- **Meals included:** *Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner*
- Van transportation
- Rock of Cashel admission, Jameson Distillery Tour

**September 5, 2023**

**DAY 5 ~ Sweet Day in Shanagarry**

Savor a delicious breakfast in the wonderful Ballymaloe style. Then, 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. You might enjoy a picnic lunch, there is a small cafe on site. *Option - Head to the picturesque town of Kinsale for sightseeing and lunch.*

Late afternoon, visit nearby Shanagarry village and pop into Stephen Pearce Pottery's shop to see the world famous pottery. Then stretch your 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. Afterwards, head over to the lively local-favorite Blackbird Pub. Enjoy dinner from the on site food truck and if you're lucky, some live music.

- **Meals included:** *Breakfast*
- Van transportation

## September 6, 2023

### DAY 6 ~ To Killarney We Go

Enjoy another stunning breakfast and morning at Ballymaloe, and then say farewell. You are passing through Cork City this morning, so the group will 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, arrive in Killarney, a charming town where there are numerous shops, restaurants, pubs, and hiking opportunities to enjoy. We've booked you at one of the area's favorite hotels ~ Old Weir Lodge ~ a charming spot near the town center. World-class golf courses and Killarney National Park are at your doorstep. After a full day of travel, enjoy dinner together in town.

- **Meals included:** *Breakfast, Dinner*
- Van transportation
- Blarney Castle admission

## September 7, 2023

### DAY 7 ~ Another Scenic Day on the Emerald Isle

Enjoy a nice breakfast and a slow morning. *Option: Skip the slow morning and visit the Dingle peninsula this morning.* Midday visit the Muckross House and Gardens, a nineteenth-century Victorian mansion and estate poised along the shore of Muckross Lake in Killarney National Park. If we're lucky the azaleas and rhododendrons will still be in bloom. Grab something for lunch at the Muckross House garden restaurant. This afternoon, 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 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 enjoy a tour, craft beer tasting, and dinner at the new Killarney Brewing & Distilling Center, located just outside town. Dine on the rooftop bar. Good times!

- **Meals included:** *Breakfast, Dinner*
- Van transportation
- Jaunting Car Ride & Boat Cruise, Killarney Brewing & Distilling Co. Tour

**September 8, 2023**

**DAY 8 ~ Ring Around the Ring of Kerry**

Enjoy a lovely breakfast and have your camera at-the-ready because today you are driving around the iconic Ring of Kerry, characterized by coastal views and charming towns. Your driver will make plenty of stops - whether for a quick photo snap, a stroll on the beach or a visit to a historical fort. Your first stop will be to visit the picturesque Kissane Sheep Farm, home to over 1000 sheep. Enjoy a sheepdog demonstration and see sheep being shorn, plus take in views of Moll's Gap. You will also stop during your drive for a pub lunch. In the afternoon, visit the Kerry Bog Museum to experience a reenactment of an 18th century famine village. And as always, your guide will keep us informed and entertained. After a full day exploring the Iveragh Peninsula, enjoy the evening as you like. It is a good night to dine in Killarney town.

- **Meals included:** *Breakfast*
- Van transportation
- Kissane Sheep Farm & Kerry Bog Museum

**September 9, 2023**

**DAY 9 ~ Irish Inspiration**

Enjoy a low key morning in Killarney before setting 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. Mid afternoon we'll check in at Bunratty Manor Hotel, a country house hotel in Bunratty Village. This is a great stopping point before returning to Dublin tomorrow. The family-run hotel is a short walk to Bunratty Castle and Folk Park and they have an excellent restaurant. Visit the castle and village this afternoon before enjoying a gourmet dinner.

- **Meals included:** *Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner*
- Van transportation
- Cliffs of Moher

**September 10, 2023**

**DAY 10 ~ May to Road Rise to Meet You**

You may choose to fly home from Shannon or Dublin today. We'll make the 2.5 hour drive to Dublin this morning based on flight departure times. Safe travels to all.

- **Meals included:** *Breakfast*
- Van transportation



# TRIP INFORMATION

Enchanting Isle September 1–10, 2023

BEGINS	Dublin, Ireland on Friday, September 1, 2023 Transfer provided from Dublin Airport upon arrival
ENDS	Sunday, September 10, 2023 Transfer provided to Shannon Airport (SNN) or Dublin Airport (DUB) If departing from Dublin Airport please book a flight leaving after midday
LODGING	<b>Buswells Hotel</b>   3 Nights   Elegant and centrally located with an atmospheric bar and restaurant... and they serve a full Irish breakfast! <b>Ballymaloe House</b>   2 Nights   Classic, ivy-covered country inn in Shanagarry with a golf course and croquet lawn. <b>Old Weir Lodge</b>   3 Nights   A family-run 30-room Tudor-style lodge, located on Muckcross Road, less than a 10-minute walk to Killarney town center. The hotel has a nice hot breakfast and a residents' bar for evening drinks. <b>Banratty Manor Hotel</b>   1 Night   Small, casual, family-owned inn with an excellent restaurant.
TRIP LENGTH	10 days, 9 nights
TOUR DATES & PRICES	<b>September 1–10, 2023</b> Based on 3 couples/6 people traveling together, the tour fee is <b>\$3,995 per person</b> .  Please note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to Ireland.  You are welcome to pay your trip fee by credit card, please note that a 3% processing fee will be applied.
CANCELLATION TERMS	Detailed terms and conditions are on Onward Travel's registration form.  This private tour requires 6 travelers. In the event someone needs to cancel, the tour is fully transferable. If any party cancels and is unable or unwilling to transfer their spots to others, Onward Travel retains the right to cancel the tour due to insufficient enrollment or make changes to the itinerary to accommodate the smaller group.

## Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- Nine nights accommodations.
- Memorable meals: daily breakfasts, four lunches, and five dinners.
- Comfortable van and informative driver/guide throughout the tour.
- Activities, tastings, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.

**Register now!** Visit [www.onwardtravel.co/IrelandGroup](http://www.onwardtravel.co/IrelandGroup) and access the page with password MERRY to complete the registration form.

\$1,250 non-refundable deposit due upon booking, balance due by June 1, 2023.

## 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.

- *When booking travel insurance, be sure to familiarize yourself with applicable COVID coverage. Travelex will cover you if you or a family member contracts COVID before or during the tour, but it does not cover global events (i.e. a travel ban) or cancellation because of fear of travel. Read more here: [www.travelexinsurance.com/covid19](http://www.travelexinsurance.com/covid19)*