

Ireland SELF DRIVE

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS - INDEPENDENT TRAVEL
DEPARTS DAILY FROM DUBLIN OR SHANNON

Explore all the nooks and crannies of this remarkable country. Drive around the Ring of Kerry enjoying its spectacular rolling hills and soaring cliffs. On your way up the coast make sure to stop by the Cliffs of Moher, which reach a height of 702 feet tall. Shop for Irish sweaters while enjoying the festive atmosphere of Galway. Drive through the extraordinary landscapes of the Burren and the sheep strewn hills of Connemara. Be welcomed with open arms by the folks in Cork, and enjoy the local charm of Irish B&B owners. Experience the luxury of a night in a real Irish castle! Learn how the Irish produce whiskey. You can even use your vehicle to drive up to the home of long-lost relatives.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE DUBLIN

Arrive in Dublin and collect your bags. As you exit customs you will be met by a representative that will help you with your luggage and escort you to your hotel, where you will stay for one night. After settling in, head over to the Jameson Whiskey Distillery for a tour of the facility and a premium whiskey tasting. Use the afternoon to visit Trinity College Library where you can find *The Book of Kells*, a beautifully illustrated manuscript dating back to the 9th century. Then check out the Temple Bar area and enjoy a pint with the locals.

JAMESON WHISKEY DISTILLERY TOUR AND PREMIUM WHISKEY TASTING ~ The Old Jameson Distillery offers you a window into the art of Irish whiskey making. Jameson is sold all over the world today, but its roots originate in a small distillery on Bow Street. Begin your tour with an introductory video and then experience a selection of leading brands with an expert guide, beginning with Jameson Irish Whiskey. You will also sample Jameson's 12

-year-old Special Reserve as well as its 18-year-old Reserve. Compare these Jameson spirits against an international premium Scotch and a premium American whiskey. Each participant is rewarded with a Jameson Irish Whiskey Taster Certificate.



DAY 2 ~ CORK

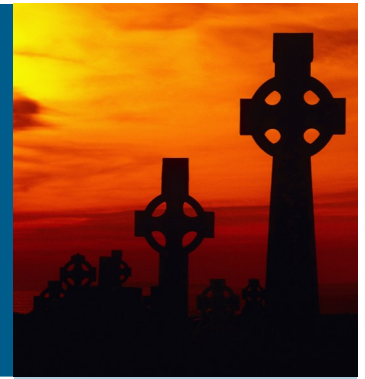
After breakfast make your way back to the airport to pick up your automatic car.

Adjust to driving on the left side of the road as you travel southwest to Cork. You can choose your own route, but we suggest making a few stop in areas of interest along the way. Perhaps make a stop in Kilkenny to visit the historic castle or take a walk in the many wonderful parks and gardens. You may also consider visiting the House of Waterford Crystal, where you can take a guided factory tour and purchase lovely souvenirs for your loved ones. While you're there, be sure to take an unforgettable walking tour of Waterford's rich and colorful city center. After a day of exciting sightseeing, make your way to Cork and check in to your B&B. Take the evening to relax or head into town for dinner to enjoy some of the local, traditional dishes.

INCLUSIONS

- Private Arrival Transfer
- 1 night in Dublin
- Jameson Whiskey Distillery Tour and Premium Whiskey Tasting
- Automatic Car Rental with Unlimited Mileage and CDW
- 4-night B&B voucher
- 1 night in Bunratty Castle Hotel
- Bunratty Medieval Banquet

EuropeExpress





INCLUSIONS

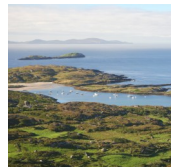
- **Private Arrival Transfer**
- **1 night in Dublin**
- **Jameson Whiskey Distillery Tour and Premium Whiskey Tasting**
- **Automatic Car Rental with Unlimited Mileage and CDW**
- **4-night B&B voucher**
- **1 night in Bunratty Castle Hotel**
- **Bunratty Medieval Banquet**

EuropeExpress



DAY 3 ~ KILLARNEY

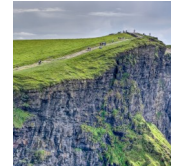
Wake up and enjoy a wonderful breakfast before heading off for a full day of splendid sightseeing. Just five miles northwest of Cork is the village of Blarney. Near the village, standing almost 90 feet in height, you'll find Blarney Castle. More than 300,000 people come annually to kiss its world-famous Blarney Stone in the hopes of gaining more eloquent speech. Another interesting place near Cork is the small seaside town of Cobh, home to *The Titanic Experience*. The museum is housed in the town's original White Star Line building, the site where the last 123 passengers boarded the ill-fated *Titanic*. The aim of the exhibition is to bring to life the experience on board and to share the highs and lows of an early 20th-century, luxury cruise liner through clever set designs, audio visual aids and interactive exhibits. After exploring Cork's surroundings, proceed west to Killarney, where you will check into your B&B and have the evening at leisure.



DAY 4 ~ KILLARNEY

After breakfast prepare for another day of exciting sightseeing. The most popular activity from Killarney is driving the Ring of Kerry, which is a scenic route along the coast; its beauty will amaze you. When driving along the ring you can visit The Muckross House, a mansion built in 1843, which is renowned for its beautiful landscaping. Just south of Killarney on the Ring of Kerry is Killarney National Park. Home to Ross Castle, Loch Léin and Ladies View, tourists and locals alike frequently hike this park's lovely trails. Ross Castle's square medieval tower was built by the O'Donoghue clan on the shores of Loch Léin the 15th century. Now restored, the castle

houses a collection of 16th and 17th century oak furniture. Ross Castle is also the departure point for boat tours on Loch Léin. After a satisfying day of sightseeing you'll return to your B&B in Killarney. Tonight enjoy the wide range of pubs and restaurants. Don't forget to make time to take a ride on one of Killarney's famous jaunting cars operated by local jarveys.



DAY 5 ~ GALWAY

After an early breakfast, load up the car and head north to Tarbert, where you'll catch the 20-minute ferry to Killimer. Once in County Clare, continue up the scenic road to the picturesque Cliffs of Moher, one of Ireland's most popular tourist attractions. From the cliffs and from atop O'Brien's Tower, visitors can see the Aran Islands in Galway Bay as well as the Maumturks and Twelve Pins mountain ranges to the north in County Galway. From the cliffs you should travel inland through The Burren, a rocky landscape region where you can find extraordinary stone tombs and monuments that date back as far as the Neolithic period. The easiest way to access this unique landscape is by visiting the Burren National Park. After exploring this fascinating countryside continue your journey to Galway and check in to your B&B.



DAY 6 ~ BUNRATTY

Enjoy your final full day in Ireland as you like. Galway is known as Ireland's Cultural Heart and is renowned for its vibrant lifestyle and numerous festivals, celebrations and events. If you are burnt out on beautiful countryside, get lost in the city's bustling atmosphere. Galway has a vibrant and varied musical scene, three cinema complexes and intriguing landmarks. It hosts many sporting, music,



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- **1 night in Dublin**
- **Jameson Whiskey Distillery Tour and Premium Whiskey Tasting**
- **Automatic Car Rental with Unlimited Mileage and CDW**
- **4-night B&B voucher**
- **1 night in Bunratty Castle Hotel**
- **Bunratty Medieval Banquet**

and arts events. If you're in the mood for more adventure, travel west to the district of Connemara. The main town of Connemara is Clifden, and its surrounding countryside is rich with megalithic tombs and white, fluffy sheep. After you've finished exploring County Galway, travel south to County Clare. Here you will check into the Bunratty Castle Hotel and enjoy a medieval banquet.

BUNRATTY IRISH MEDIEVAL BANQUET ~

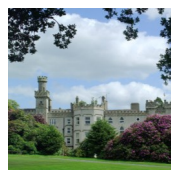
For over 40 years the ladies of the castle, aided and abetted by the Earl's butler, have welcomed guests from the four corners of the globe to join them at the Earl's banquet. You will reach the castle through the Entrance Cottage after taking a short stroll through the Folk Park to the Castle Gate. There a kilted piper will play a tune of welcome. A lively mead reception in the Great Hall will be followed by a four-course meal, served with red and white wines. Then enjoy the superb entertainment of the Bunratty Castle Entertainers, accompanied by the harp and violin. You are invited to enjoy an unforgettable evening in the splendor of this magnificent castle.



DAY 7 ~ RETURN HOME

After breakfast, you'll check out and proceed to

Shannon Airport, where you can return your rental car. Wave goodbye to the Emerald Isle as you take off, and "may the luck of the Irish smile on ye!"



DAY 8 ~ HOME

Unpack and prepare for your next vacation with Europe Express!

B&B Voucher System

The prepaid B&B vouchers are issued by B&B Ireland, who offer the finest selection of town, farm, and country home accommodations on the island of Ireland. They have been welcoming visitors into their homes for more than four decades, and as a guest you can expect that they will help you learn the true meaning of "Cead Mile Falte" - a hundred thousand welcomes!

These easy-to-use, prepaid vouchers allow the flexibility to travel around Ireland and explore small towns or large cities. They can be used to pre-reserve your accommodation by using your voucher number, or you can simply choose the locations that interest you and play it by ear when you arrive in Ireland. This allows you to stay longer in one location if you find it of interest.

Rental Cars in Ireland

Driving in Ireland can be a bit of the challenge for those unaccustomed to driving on the left. If you take it easy however, you should do fine. We suggest an automatic transmission to make it easier; however, there are only a limited number available in Ireland, so it would be wise to familiarize yourself with the operation of a manual transmission.

Maps are available at car rental agencies or gas stations. If you would like to plan your route before you go, you can usually purchase a road map of Ireland at most large bookstores. GPS can be requested, but is never guaranteed, so plan to bring your own or have a back up plan if one is not available.

You should yield and/or observe traffic signals when approaching roundabouts. Once you enter a roundabout you should keep moving. If you miss the exit you wanted, keep moving until you circle back to it again. You should use your direction signal when exiting a roundabout.

An international drivers license is not required to drive in Ireland, but you can obtain one through AAA if it makes you more comfortable.

Taxes and drop fees are always paid locally and must be paid in Euros or Pounds. This amount will always be estimated on your vouchers so that you can anticipate these cost before you go, but they must be paid locally.

Escorted Tours

Escorted tours offer the structure that some people need to feel comfortable abroad. They're a great alternative if you don't feel that a self-driving vacation is best for you. On our escorted tours you will travel with an expert guide who will accompany you throughout the program. Many of your sightseeing tours and meals are included, and you don't have to worry about getting lost on the roads. The itineraries can vary but below is one of the most popular escorted tours we offer:

- **Unforgettable Ireland**—Explore the length of the Emerald Isle. Kiss the Blarney Stone before continuing on to the Ring of Kerry, famous for its views and lakes affording many photo options. Next enjoy the gardens and gracious living at the Elizabethan mansion, Muckross House. Stop at the famous Cliffs of Moher before heading out into the unique stone landscape of the Burren region. Onwards to the festival city of Galway where 'craic', Irish for a good time, is always a given. Then cruise the Lough Corrib past historic monuments and lovely views. Continue enjoying Ireland's natural scenery in the Connemara region full of rivers, mountains and peat bogs. Gaelic is still spoken in some of the villages in this charming region. Stop to admire neo-gothic Kylemore Abbey before contemplating sixth century Celtic crosses at Clonmacnoise. End your journey in Dublin with a visit to Trinity College to regard the ninth century Book of Kells.



Inclusions:

- Roundtrip flights to Dublin on available carrier
- Escorted sightseeing by luxury motorcoach
- Professional driver-guide included as per itinerary
- Group arrival and departure airport transfers
- Accommodation at 4-star hotels for 7 nights
- Full Irish breakfast daily except on the morning of arrival

- Three dinners as per itinerary
- All admission fees to the following:
 - Blarney Castle
 - Muckross House
 - Cliffs of Moher
 - Galway Cathedral
 - Connemara National Park
 - Kylemore Abbey
 - Clonmacnoise
 - Trinity College
- Ferry ride across the River Shannon
- Cruise on Lough Corrib
- Half-day Dublin City Tour
- Hotel service charges, taxes and portage fees



The monastery of Clonmacnoise

Want to travel with a group and expert guide?

Europe Express offers escorted Ireland trips too!

Dublin is a great place to visit for the holidays!



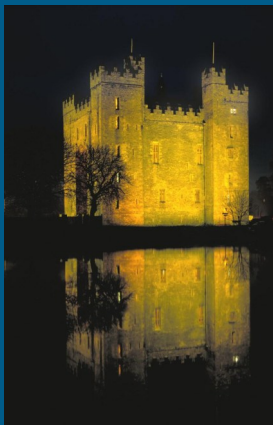


Ireland has over 300
golf courses to enjoy

Don't want to do
it on your own?

*Europe Express
offers a wide
variety of private
car and driver
options too!*

Castle stays can make
your trip unforgettable!



Private Car and Driver

If you don't feel comfortable driving in Ireland or are part of a small group, we can help arrange a private car and driver-guide. We can facilitate any number of passengers with any itinerary. Depending on the size of your group, we can arrange a luxury coach or a private Mercedes vehicle. Our experts will work with you to personalize a itinerary that is exciting and that allows you to see the sights that most interest you. Your driver will travel with you and be available eight hours a day.

Add a Castle or Manor House Stay!

Castle stays are a great way to enhance your trip. We have a variety of different types of properties in many locations so you can feature a castle stay in your unique vacation plans.

Below are several castles that we suggest:

- **Cabra Castle**—Situating in the east of County Cavan, Cabra Castle boasts a proud history dating back to 1760. The hotel is less than an hour away from Dublin's airport. Most of the castle's bedrooms are situated in the courtyard development, all having access to the castle's beautiful garden. For travelers looking to have a truly unique and authentic experience, Cabra Castle has been remarkably restored to preserve its 17th-century origins.
- **Ashford Castle**—With 700 years of history, Ashford Castle has the modern amenities you would expect, while still maintaining its charm and class. Ashford Castle is located on beautiful Lough Corrib and has a sweeping view of the lake and 350 acres of private woodland. Following a tradition passed down through the centuries, enjoy a leisurely brunch or candlelight dinner in the comfort of your own accommodation. The 13th-century DeBurgos Castle and original Ashford House (1715) offer fishing, hunting, archery, horseback riding and billiards all within an hour of Galway.
- **Solis Lough Eske Castle**—Solis Lough Eske Castle is situated on 43 acres of forest at the edge of Lough Eske, five miles outside of Donegal. It is located between Donegal Bay and the Blue Stack Mountains. The dining room features floor-to-ceiling, button-back upholstery, crystal fixtures and a wonderful slate terrace. The bar has a club-like atmosphere with stone floors, heavy leather couches and black and white photographs. The spa features treatment rooms, a thermal suite with hot benches, cardio-vascular equipment and an indoor swimming pool with a beautiful glass atrium.
- **Adare Manor Hotel**—Adare Manor, housed in an 18th-century building, is situated along the meandering River Maigue amid 840 acres of formal gardens and lush parklands. It is an architectural masterpiece of towers, turrets, and stonework ornamentation. Adare Manor is the former family seat of the Earls of Dunraven. The restaurant is elegantly decorated and has crystal chandeliers, oak-paneled walls and paintings by Peter Ellenshaw. The Adare Golf Club opened in 1995 and measures 7,138 yards off the championship tees; the course, with four tees on each hole, ensures that all golfers will be able to enjoy their game. The Equestrian Center has a scenic and challenging cross-country trail.



For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent