



## Tour of Ireland

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Dublin – Galway – Adare - Killarney – Cork

12 DAYS



### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Arrive Dublin

Upon arrival at the Dublin airport you will be met by your driver and transferred to your hotel where you welcomed to Ireland by your local Akorn Europe Guardian Angel, and you will be assisted with check-in procedures.

*Your Akorn Europe Guardian Angel is a unique network of one of over 75 A&K representatives throughout Europe to ensure your vacation operates smoothly and to your absolute satisfaction. Your Guardian Angel is there on the ground to ensure that your travel arrangements run perfectly. He/she is on the end of the phone for you should you have any queries and is there to assist you*

You will be confirmed for two nights at the Aberdeen Lodge Hotel in a superior double room, inclusive of Irish breakfast.

*Aberdeen Lodge*

## Day 2: Dublin

This morning, you will meet a local city guide who will take you on a half day sightseeing tour (4 hours) of the Irish Capital in your private vehicle. You will visit Trinity College, where you will see the Book of Kells, a fabulous example of early Irish manuscript illumination that is on display in the Old Library. You will also visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, the largest church in Ireland.

The remainder of the day will be at your leisure.

*Aberdeen Lodge*

*B*

## Day 3: Dublin - Galway

A full day touring (8 hours) with your driver-guide who will take you to Connemara.

*When touring by private car with a driver-guide, we use an experienced driver-guide who will give commentary en-route and maybe do some guiding although generally they are not permitted to guide within museums and certain historical sites of interest.*

You will stop at Clomacnoise, where you can visit one of the most celebrated set of dark age monastic ruins that occupy a lovely position overlooking the River Shannon. You will then continue to your hotel in the Galway.

You will be confirmed for two nights at the Cashel House Hotel in a standard (court view) double room, inclusive of Irish breakfast.

*Cashel House Hotel*

*B*

## Day 4: Galway - Connemara - Galway

You will have a full day (8 hours) with your driver-guide to explore the windswept landscape of Connemara, where barren mountains surround small lakes. On the shores of one such lake sits Kylemore Abbey, still home to a living community of nuns. You may then proceed past Killary Harbour Fjord into Joyce Country as you head back towards your hotel.

*Cashel House Hotel*

*B*

### **Day 5: Galway - Adare**

Your driver-guide will take you on a full day excursion (8 hours) to the South. Leave Galway this morning. The road will then lead around Galway Bay, famed for its oysters. Near the east end of the bay is Thoor Ballylee, the house once owned by the poet W. B. Yeats. Drive through County Clare along the coast road to the Burren, a vast limestone plateau, the best pavements of which can be seen from the road around Black Head and to the Cliffs of Moher. At over 600 feet tall, these sandstone cliffs are Ireland's highest. They are exposed to the fiercest of Atlantic storms and present a very dramatic appearance. This afternoon stop at Bunratty Castle, where you can see the largest fifteenth-century tower house in Ireland, in the grounds of which is a series of traditional thatched cottages that have been carefully reconstructed. Your tour finishes in Adare today, picturesque village well known for its thatched cottages and medieval ruins, and where your hotel is located.

You will be confirmed for two nights at the Dunraven Arms Hotel in one standard double room inclusive of Irish breakfast.

*Dunraven Arms*

*B*

### **Day 6: Shannon Region**

Your driver-guide will take you on a half day journey (4hrs) through part of the Shannon Region. You will enjoy a visit to the eighteenth-century crenellated Glin Castle, the home of the Knight of Glin and his celebrated art collection.

Your afternoon will be at leisure to enjoy the village of Adare.

*Dunraven Arms*

*B*

### **Day 7: Adare - Dingle Peninsula – Killarney**

Enjoy a scenic drive on your full day transfer (8 hours) with your driver-guide. Travel to Dingle Peninsula until you reach Dingle Town, a long-established fishing community. You will then take the Sleat Head drive that will lead you to the westernmost tip of mainland Ireland, to gain excellent views of the Blasket Islands from the road that hugs the cliff tops. You will learn about the culture and heritage of this Gaelic-speaking region at the Blasket Islands Heritage Center.

You will return past Mount Brandon, the second highest peak in Ireland, and continue to your hotel in Killarney, overlooking the lakes of Killarney.

You will be confirmed for two nights at the Aghadoe Heights Hotel in a classic double room inclusive of Irish breakfast.

*Aghadoe Heights Hotel*

*B*

### **Day 8: Killarney – Ring of Kerry – Killarney**

Your driver-guide will take you on a full day excursion (8 hours) around the Ring of Kerry, one of the best-loved coastal drives in Europe. The road follows the shoreline of the Iveragh Peninsula, and passes some of the most beautiful mountain and moorland scenery in the whole of Ireland. You will be able to see traditional Irish landscapes at their best. En route, you will pass Derrynane House, the home of Daniel O'Connell, the 'Great Liberator' of Ireland. You will also stop at Muckross House, with gardens and traditional farms, which enjoy a magnificent setting on the shores of the Lake of Killarney in the shadow of Macgillycuddy's Reeks, the highest mountains in Ireland.

*Aghadoe Heights Hotel*

*B*

### **Day 9: Killarney – Cork**

Make your way with your driver-guide to the stunning Bantry Bay where you can visit the Innacullin Gardens. Innacullin is a small island of 15 hectares (37 acres) known to horticulturists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the world as an island garden of rare beauty. Bantry House and Gardens is also well worth a visit. The house contains an important collection of furniture, tapestries and objects d'art. Your driver-guide will then take you to your hotel in Cork.

You will be confirmed for two nights at the Hayfield Manor Hotel in two superior double rooms inclusive of Irish breakfast.

*Hayfield Manor*

*B*

### **Day 10: Cork**

Spend the day (up to 8 hours) exploring the region around Cork. Continue to nearby Blarney Castle for a visit. In the parapet of this ruined tower house lies the Blarney Stone, said to bestow the 'gift of the gab' on all who kiss it. (Please note: the ascent to the castle is not recommended for anybody who has difficulty climbing stairs.) You may also wish to visit the historic little town of Cobh (pronounced "Cove") from where many Irish left for America and where the Titanic made its final stop. Alternatively you may wish to see the delightful coastal town of Kinsale, famous for its fine seafood restaurants.

*Hayfield Manor*

*B*

### **Day 11: Cork – Dublin**

Your driver-guide will take you on a full day journey (8 hours) in the direction of Dublin. You will drive to Kildare, where you will be able to tour the Irish National Stud, where many top racehorses are bred. Adjacent to the Stud are the delightful Japanese Gardens. Continue to your hotel in the Irish Capital.

You will be confirmed again at the Clontarf Castle Hotel for your final night in a standard double room, inclusive of Irish breakfast. The hotel is located in the North of Dublin, just five miles from the airport.

*Clontarf Castle Hotel*

*B*

### **Day 12: Depart Dublin**

Today you will be privately transferred to the nearby Dublin Airport.

### **Silver**

- Irish breakfast
- Accommodation in a superior double room at the Aberdeen Lodge Hotel, Dublin
- Accommodation in a standard double room at the Cashel House Hotel, Galway
- Accommodation in a standard double room at the Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare
- Accommodation in a standard double room at the Aghadoe Heights Hotel, Killarney
- Accommodation in a superior double room at the Hayfield Manor Hotel, Cork
- Accommodation in a double room at the Clontarf Castle Hotel, Dublin
- Private transport by Mercedes E Class or similar. Please note that the vehicle provided allows for two pieces of luggage per person. For additional luggage, larger vehicles can be provided for a supplementary cost.
- Expert local English-speaking guide for stated sightseeing in Dublin
- Expert local Driver-guide for stated sightseeing when outside of Dublin
- Entrances to stated sights and museums
- The services of an **Akorn DMC Guardian Angel** including hotel meeting upon arrival in Dublin, telephone monitoring at each hotel and reconfirmation of arrangements with all service providers.
- Welcome pack
- All taxes
- 24 hour emergency contact service based at Akorn Europe

### **Exclusions:**

- All air travel and associated costs
- All meals except breakfast
- Porterage
- Gratuities
- All items of a personal nature (e.g. beverages, telephone calls, laundry, personal insurance)
- Anything not specifically mentioned in the "Inclusions" list above.

