

## Ireland Private Tour

Please note that all of the itineraries listed in our web site are actual private tour itineraries we have prepared for clients over the past 12-18 months. By the very nature of what we do, each private tour itinerary is custom, exclusive and unique unto itself. Our over-riding goal is to create lifelong memories that you and your family will forever carry deep within your hearts.

### Overview

Ireland is an ancient and magical country with lots to offer many types of travelers! From the breathtaking landscapes filled with cliff drops, fields of green, and coastlines, anywhere you go in Ireland is the epitome of stunning. The kindhearted people, the delicious fresh food, and the powerful traditional music all help tell the tale of the history of this special land. Whether you are on a hunt for leprechauns for the kids, the perfect pint in a charming pub for mom and dad or looking to connect with your Irish ancestry that grandma and grandpa told you all about... Ireland awaits you!

#### **IRELAND**

#### **Temperature Range**

Highs: Low 60's

Lows: Low 50's

#### **Area**

70,182 SQ KM

27,097 SQ MILES

#### **Population**

4.6 Million

#### **Language**

Irish, English

#### **Capital**

Dublin

#### **Currency**

Euro

#### **Day 1**

##### **Fly to Dublin**

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assist with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

#### **Day 2**

##### **Arrive Dublin + Transfer to Donegal**

Upon arrival in Dublin, you will be privately transferred to Lough Eske Castle in Donegal. En route you may stop in Kells (original home to the famous book) and/or Enniskillen (town in Northern Ireland).

##### **Lough Eske Castle**

Lough Eske Castle is a very unique 5-star hotel located just outside Donegal Town in Co. Donegal. The castle was home to the O'Donnell Clan in the 14th century, leaving behind many secrets and giving guests a connection to the historic ties on this land. In 1861, the castle was rebuilt as we see it today. The castle has been a staple of

history, luxury, and a true Irish experience for over 150 years. The 97 magnificent guest rooms and suites maintain a classic style with a modern touch of comfort and style. The hotel offers many activities and amenities to its guests such as fitness facilities, a full-service spa, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and even surfing nearby. The castle boasts some high rewards, such as Conde Nast's Luxury Hotel of the Year 2017, Top Luxury Countryside Spa 2018 at the World Luxury Spa Awards, and Ireland's Castle Wedding Venue of the Year 2020, among others. We especially love the spa, located in a lovely Victorian Glass House, as well as the in-house Cedar's Restaurant which uses fresh local ingredients including seafood from the nearby Atlantic Ocean. You are sure to have a memorable and meaningful stay here, and it is the perfect countryside retreat to begin your journey in Ireland!

**Meals: --**

**Accommodations: Lough Eske Castle**

### **Day 3**

#### **Donegal Private Touring**

In 2017, County Donegal was awarded the title of “Coolest Place on the Planet” by Lonely Planet. Today, discover the coastline, adventure, serene beaches, and stoic stone that all make Donegal a very special place. A visit to Slieve League cliffs and Donegal Castle will be made along with stops for breathtaking walking/hiking along the way.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodations: Lough Eske Castle**

### **Day 4**

#### **Northwest Coast Private Tour + Transfer to Co. Mayo**

On your adventure to Co. Mayo, stop along the way at Céide Fields, an archaeological site. It is the most extensive Stone Age era site in Ireland and contains the oldest known field systems in the world. After your brush with ancient history, it's on to Knock. Alongside Lourdes and Fatima, Knock is one of Europe's major Catholic shrines to the Virgin Mary. It is said that in 1879, Mary appeared along with Saint Joseph and Saint John the Evangelist. Pilgrims and visitors alike have been coming since the apparition, making it a place for religious and non-religious folks to feel a sense of serenity and peace among the 100 acres of beautiful gardens.

#### **Ashford Castle**

A member of the Leading Hotels of the World and the Red Carnation Hotel Collection, the 5-star Ashford Castle is the icon of luxury accommodations in Ireland. It is not only one of the best hotels in Ireland, but it has been regarded as one of the best hotels in the world. The 83 rooms and suites are individually and custom-designed to combine and accentuate the original castle features with a modern touch of luxury and technology, including electronic shades, free WiFi, and outlets for both European and American plugs. The 800-year old castle is the former home of the infamous Guinness family and has also been named one of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World. Past guests range from royalty and classic authors to celebrities and government officials. Situated on a 350-acre estate, there is so much to explore, learn about, and do at Ashford Castle! Some of the on-site activities include a full spa, falconry, fishing, horseback riding, clay shooting, ziplining, and off-road driving. One of our favorite aspects of Ashford Castle are the two Irish Wolfhounds (Cronan and Garvin) who welcome you to join them on their morning walks through the beautiful property or for a snuggle in front of the cozy fire in the lobby area.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodations: Ashford Castle**

### **Day 5**

#### **Galway and the Cliffs of Moher**

Today, visit the iconic image of Ireland's UNESCO Cliffs of Moher. Running along 9 miles of coast and cliffs standing at 390 feet above the Atlantic Ocean, you are sure to be amazed by the natural beauty of this landscape. On a clear day, you may see such wildlife as grey seals, porpoises, puffins, and dolphins, as well as a great view to the Aran Islands. Feel free to hike along the cliffs and get in tune with your adventurous side! A stop in Galway City is planned for a look around the famed town and time for lunch.

***Meals: Breakfast***

***Accommodations: Ashford Castle***

## **Day 6**

### **Touring Co. Clare**

First, make your way to Caherconnell for a sheepdog demonstration! This historic art of herding is both impressive and fun to watch for all ages. Afterwards, head to the coast town of Doolin to visit the caves! Home to amazing stalactite (formations of calcium salt from a single drop of water formed over thousands of years), these caves contain the longest free-hanging stalactite in Europe, nature's very own chandeliers! A stop at the Friary Ruins may also be included.

### **Adare Manor**

Adare Manor is located in Co. Limerick and stands on 840 acres of gorgeous parkland. With comfort and elegance as the highest concern, guest rooms are all individually designed and furnished. They are the perfect retreat offering ease and repose after a day exploring the nearby attractions. The 18th-century castle was once the home of the second earl of Dunraven. The 104 beautiful rooms are decorated with historically-inspired art and furnishings, large inviting beds, marble bathrooms, and gorgeous views of the manor's landscape from all room windows. If you're not off exploring on an excursion to nearby attractions, the manor offers many on-site activities such as golf on the championship course, gun dog experience, woodland walks, whiskey tastings, and more. In 2018, Adare Manor was named "Best Hotel in the World" at the Virtuoso Best of the Best Awards in Las Vegas. In November of the same year, the hotel re-opened after some restorations and construction and opened their brand-new wing. Golf fanatics will be impressed to learn that Adare Manor will also be the host of the 2026 Ryder Cup Championship Tournament at their very own golf course!

Or...

### **Dromoland Castle**

You have the opportunity to stay at the amazing, 16th-century luxury Dromoland Castle. The Castle was the ancestral home of the O'Briens of baronial Dromoland, whose lineage dates back 1000 years to Brian Boru, the greatest of High Kings in Irish history. With only 99 rooms, the 450-acre estate has been a big draw of recent clients, which includes a lovely lake (with nice walking trails), expansive grounds, and even a hidden garden (!). Though all the rooms are done in original period aesthetics, they have been refurbished with modern amenities and marble baths. All the deluxe rooms overlook the estate's lake and gardens. Our favorite part is the true castle experience, you really do feel like a King, Queen, Princess, or Prince during your stay as the service is so personal and simply exceptional. Your two restaurant options include the fine dining "Earl of Thomond" and the more casual "Fig Tree" restaurant. Amenities include a health/fitness spa (with 56' indoor pool), an 18 – hole championship golf course, and many other outdoor activities. Past clients have taken part in the archery, fishing, and clay-pigeon shooting options as well.

***Meals: Breakfast***

***Accommodations: Adare Manor or Dromoland Castle***

## **Day 7**

### **Irish Castles Private Touring**

Today, visit two of Ireland's many restored castles! Begin the day at Limerick's King John Castle, built in roughly 1210 beside the Shannon River. It is still to this day one of the best preserved Norman castles in all of Europe. Next, it's on to Bunratty Castle and Folk Park! This "village" has been recreated to give visitors an idea of what life was really like in olden times. After a visit to the castle and park, head to the castle's dining hall for a medieval banquet including actors in costume!

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodations: Adare Manor or Dromoland Castle**

## **Day 8**

### **Ring of Kerry Private Touring + Transfer to Kenmare**

On this very famous scenic drive, enjoy a stop in Dingle, famous for its "mascot" Fungi the Irish dolphin! Fungi loves to interact with humans and welcome them to this beautiful part of the country. Continue along the Ring of Kerry, enjoying the breathtaking landscape and a plethora of activities to arrange such as hiking, biking, surfing, boat excursions, etc.

### **Sheen Falls Lodge**

This 5 star Relais & Chateau property is a gorgeous travel base in the southwest of Ireland. Set on a 300 acre estate looking over Kenmare Bay, the location is prime to explore such nearby sites as the Ring of Kerry, Beara Peninsula, and Killarney Lakes. The 18th-century estate belonged to the Marquess of Landsowne and officially opened as a hotel in 1991. When you're not out exploring, you can enjoy the extensive wine cellar, have afternoon tea, or treat yourself to a cocktail at the bar. The 77 rooms and suites are extremely spacious (starting at 38 square meters) and some contain open fireplaces for guests to enjoy. Views from the room may overlook the Kenmare Bay or the Sheen Waterfalls. Rooms are decorated in warm, inviting colors to match the natural surrounding landscapes and marble bathrooms with everything you need for a pleasant stay. There is a formal/fine dining restaurant on-site called La Cascade, as well as a less formal option at the Restaurant Lounge. One of our favorite activities at Sheen Falls is a daily wine tasting offered to guests with the lodge's sommelier in the wine cellar, it is truly a wine lover "must"!

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodations: Sheen Falls Lodge**

## **Day 9**

### **Transfer to Dublin + Dublin Private Touring**

Transfer to Ireland's capital and explore the city life side to Irish culture. Tour Trinity College and the infamous "Book of Kells" at the library, enjoy the Guinness Storehouse Experience inc. a free pint at the end of the tour in a 360 degree panoramic rooftop bar, and get in touch with Ireland's civil war history at Kilmainham Geol (jail).

### **Shelbourne Hotel**

One of Dublin's well-known luxury hotels, the Shelbourne Hotel was built in 1824 and has been a staple of the city ever since. With a prime location just in front of St. Stephen's Green, the hotel offers a high-end experience from the start. As you enter, you are surrounded by an abundance of fresh and beautifully

arranged flowers, giving the main lobby area a wonderful floral aroma. After check-in, head to one of the 265 rooms/suites, all of which are individually decorated. As a standard, all rooms have Egyptian cotton bedding, elegant marble bathrooms, and modern technologies such as WiFi, LED flat-screen televisions, and US compatible outlets. This historic hotel takes pride in its grand heritage and has kept a classic look to rooms while keeping up with modern luxuries and comforts. Wellness is an important trait of the hotel, offering guests access to its spa, salon, and fitness center. If looking for a delicious meal, there is no need to exit the building! The Shelbourne offers 6 restaurants, lounges, and bars and is sure to satisfy your needs or cravings. A personal favorite is the No. 27 Lounge Bar, which is just to the left of the main entrance. The bar takes you back to a classic period while offering a delicious and impressive array of drink options. Many locals come here to socialize and convene, so you'll feel just like a local in the mix!

***Meals: Breakfast***

***Accommodations: Shelbourne Hotel***

### **Day 10**

#### **Dublin Private Touring**

Enjoy your last day in Eire exploring the endless possibilities in Dublin.

***Meals: Breakfast***

***Accommodations: Shelbourne Hotel***

### **Day 11**

#### **Transfer to Dublin Airport + Fly Dublin/Home**

Transfer to Dublin airport for your flight home. Ireland has a special relationship with the United States allowing travelers to pre-clear U.S Customs and Immigration in Dublin. Global Entry is also accepted. You will need to arrive at the airport at least three hours before your flight, but when you arrive home, you'll simply collect your luggage and go!

***Meals: Breakfast***

***Accommodations: --***