



Best of Ireland – Accessible tour

Location	Number of nights
Dublin	1 Night
Galway	2 Nights
Kerry	2 Nights
Cork	1 Night
Dublin	1 Night

Accessible information

Day 1: Dublin

Dublin City Hop-On Hop-Off: Discover the city by scenic bus and stop at all the famous places of Dublin.



DUBLIN is such a unique city with long history and is one that has layered the city as a foundation to what it is today. Viking, Georgian and Elizabethan influence are all evident across different elements of the city. Included within this is a distinctively Irish culture that supersedes other influences. Dublin is ranked as the 43rd most visited city in the world – just ahead of Florence in 44th – this is not a coincidence and is only growing in popularity.

If you have any interest in literature, it is the home of a plethora of famed writers; including the less well-known Bram Stoker (creator of Dracula).

Before you go home, you must visit the world famous brewery that produces Ireland's national drink "Guinness". **THE GUINNESS STOREHOUSE** is located in the heart of the Guinness Brewery at St James's Gate, Dublin. Housed in an old fermentation plant, the seven-story visitor experience tells the epic tale of Ireland's iconic drink and brings to life the heritage of Guinness from early days to growth as a global brand, known all around the world. The experience starts standing at the bottom of the world's largest pint glass, which rises through the building. It is a dramatic story that begins over 250 years ago and ends in The Gravity Bar where visitors will receive a complimentary pint of Guinness while relaxing and enjoying the spectacular 360-degree view of Dublin and its surroundings.



Info on Guinness Storehouse accessibility can be found here:
<https://www.guinness-storehouse.com/en/accessibility>

Info on the Hop on Hop off bus in Dublin: All Hop on Hop off buses are wheelchair accessible, however there is a restriction of one wheelchair per bus.

Night in Dublin - Radisson Blu Golden Lane

Day 2: Dublin - Galway

Breakfast included at accommodation

In a recent nationwide survey the people of **GALWAY** were found to be Ireland's happiest! And visiting Galway City, it is not hard to see why. It is a lively university city of narrow streets, quaint shopfronts, bustling pubs and stunning surrounding scenery. It has always attracted a bohemian mix of musicians, artists and intellectuals and that attitude is palpable as you walk the streets. En-route if you wish you can visit Clonmacnoise - An Early Christian site founded by St. Ciarán in the mid-6th century on the eastern bank of the River Shannon. The site includes the ruins of a cathedral, seven churches (10th -13th century), two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of Early Christian graveslabs in Western Europe. The original high crosses and a selection of graveslabs are on display in the visitor centre. The long and varied history of Clonmacnoise is recounted in an audiovisual presentation shown in the visitor centre. There are also exhibitions that deal with the flora, fauna and landscape of the region.



Clonmacnoise Access:

- Centre is fully accessible for visitors with disabilities
- Site access is limited for visitors with disabilities

Night in Galway – Clayton Hotel Galway

Day 3: Connemara – Kylemore Abbey –Galway

Breakfast included at accommodation

Northwest of Galway City lies the rocky, barren, but breathtakingly stunning region of **CONNEMARA**. This area is one of the few remaining in Ireland where the native tongue (Gaeilge) is still fluently spoken as a first language. Stop off in the fishing village of Roundstone, where currachs, old style featherweight rowing boats are still in everyday use. The village also boasts an impressive crafts complex, selling everything from teapots and sweaters to traditional Irish music instruments. However long you spend in Connemara you will be constantly enchanted by the ever changing scenery of mountains and valleys, lakes and beaches and bays.



Set in the Connemara mountains is **KYLEMORE ABBEY**, a beautiful neo-Gothic Castle. Given its picture-perfect location, Kylemore is often touted as Ireland's most romantic castle. Built by English industrialist Mitchell Henry in 1868, visitors to the three reception rooms in the Abbey are touched by its history steeped in romance and tragedy. Kylemore Castle was sold to Benedictine nuns fleeing war-torn Belgium in 1920 and the Castle became an Abbey. The Community of Nuns re-opened their International Boarding School here and established a day school for local girls. The Church, a 'miniature cathedral', is a centre of prayer for many visitors.



Info: The Kylemore estate is partially accessible to wheelchair users and those with reduced mobility. The Abbey offers limited access although some assistance may be needed to cross the step at the threshold and there is limited access inside.

The neo-Gothic Church is not accessible for wheelchair users. Our shuttle bus to the garden is suitable for wheelchair users and most of the paths in the garden are accessible however there are some steep inclines and steps which prevent full access to some areas of the garden. Our shop and Café are fully accessible.

Night in Galway – Clayton Hotel Galway

Day 4: Galway – Burren – Cliffs of Moher – Kerry

Breakfast included at accommodation

THE BURREN, or Boireann, meaning Great Rock, is in County Clare. It is without dispute, one of the most unique - and strangest - landscapes in Europe. The Burren occupies approximately 250 square kilometres. Bounded by the Atlantic on the west and rocked by Galway Bay to the north, it is a multi-layered landscape where rare and delicate plants have adapted in order to thrive and flourish between harsh crevices. Stroll the meadows, be astonished by the boulders, and read the trail marks and footprints that the ice age and volcanoes left behind. The Burren is littered with ancient and megalithic sites.



The **CLIFFS OF MOHER** are one of Ireland's premier visitor attractions. The Cliffs stand 214 metres (700 feet) tall at their highest point and range for 8 kilometres over the Atlantic Ocean on the western seaboard of County Clare. From the Cliffs one can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head to the South. There are two paths to take north and south along the cliff edge, providing spectacular views all the way. Construction of an award winning eco-friendly Visitor Centre was completed in 2007. The interpretive centre named 'Atlantic Edge' contains state of the art displays and visitor facilities. The grass-roofed building is cleverly set into the hillside - a unique cave-like structure which minimises the visual impact on this fabulously scenic location.

Info on Cliffs of Moher accessibility: <https://www.cliffsofmoher.ie/accessibility/>

Night in Kerry - Dingle Skellig Hotel

Day 5: Ring of Kerry and Killarney

Breakfast included at accommodation



A near full day of sightseeing on The **RING OF KERRY** awaits. At 110 miles long, it circles the awe-inspiring Iveragh Peninsula. You will feel as if you have moved into nature's mystic arena – and truly, you have – as you pass between soft mountains, through forest glades, around bogs, rivers, lakes and pristine beaches. Ireland's natural beauty sings throughout the Ring of Kerry. You may wish to explore several charming villages along the route, including Glenbeigh, Waterville, and Sneem. Stroll and talk to people—this is what makes your travel experience unique. The Ring attracted Ireland's first settlers, and has a wealth of ancient sites. A 6th century monastery, clinging to the windswept cliffs of the Skellig Islands, is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Ring of Kerry is the stuff of dreams and lifelong memories.



MUCKROSS HOUSE, set close to the shores of Muckross Lake & amidst the beautiful scenery of Killarney National Park, was built for Henry Arthur Herbert and his wife, the watercolourist Mary Balfour Herbert. William Burn, the well-known Scottish architect, was the designer. Building commenced in 1839 and was completed in 1843. Today the principal rooms are furnished in period style and portray the elegant lifestyle of

the 19th century land-owning class. While in the basement, one can imagine the busy bustle of the servants as they went about their daily chores. During the 1850s, the Herberts undertook extensive garden works in preparation for Queen Victoria's visit in 1861. Between the months of April and July, Muckross Gardens are spectacularly adorned with the red and pink flowers of mature Rhododendrons. Other features include a Sunken Garden, Rock Garden and Stream Garden. An Arboretum, containing many trees from the Southern Hemisphere, was established in 1972. Muckross Traditional Farms are situated adjacent to Muckross House. These working farms recreate and portray the traditional farming methods, and way of life, of a typical local, rural community of the 1930s. The Walled Garden Centre incorporates the Garden Restaurant, Muckross Craft Shop and three Muckross Craft Workshops.

Info on Muckross house accessibility: For the most part Muckross House and Muckross Traditional Farms have universal access, however in some instances access may be limited due to the limitations of historic buildings. To assist people with reduced mobility a courtesy/transit wheelchair is available for use within the interior environs of Muckross House only. Please ask a member of staff for details.

Night in Kerry - Dingle Skellig Hotel

Day 6: Beara Peninsula – Cork

Breakfast included at accommodation

Home to some of the most breathtaking scenery in Ireland, the appeal of the **BEARA PENINSULA** lies in its startling beauty, perhaps best experienced by climbing the hills & cycling the roads. It's a lot bigger and much wider than Sheeps Head Peninsula to the south and occupies



part of both Counties Cork & Kerry. While there is lush greenery (reminiscent of the Ireland imagined by long departed emigrants) amid rocky scenery on the Mizen Head and Sheeps Head Peninsulas, the Beara is a desolate, harsh, rocky landscape. It makes wonderful walking country and is littered with pre-historic rocks, stone circles including Uragh Stone Circle and old tombs. Those lucky enough to visit this hidden gem will encounter lush natural beauty, wild landscapes, unspoilt seascapes and the warm welcome of the Irish people.



In the bustling **CORK CITY** (often referred to as 'Ireland's Second Capital'), stroll the river walk at the University and pop into the Glucksman Gallery. Relax in a café, and hit Shandon Street, just a short walk from the main shopping district. Award-winning restaurants line the streets, and nightlife choices include Irish Traditional, classy nightclubs, theatre,

opera, plays, and dance.

Situated in the heart of Cork City, the **ENGLISH MARKET** is a roofed food market and has been trading since 1788. Developed and still owned by Cork City Council, the Market is one of the oldest municipal markets of it's kind in the world. The trading stalls are held under 21 year leases from the City Council. The English Market is a great way to interact with the local people of Cork. You'll be sure to be blown away by their charm and lilting-like accent. The highest quality of food is also available and many regard it as the best closed market in both Ireland and the UK.



English Marker accessibility info: The nearest on-street disabled parking spaces are located at Grand Parade and South Mall. The entrances to the English Market on Princes Street and Grand Parade are level-access.

Night in Cork - Rochestown Hotel

Day 7: Cork - Rock of Cashel OR Kilkenny Castle - Dublin

Breakfast included at accommodation

One of the most visited sites in Ireland; **THE ROCK OF CASHEL** is a spectacular group of medieval buildings set on a rocky outcrop of limestone, looming above the town of Cashel, County Tipperary. There is a 12th Century round tower, High Cross and Romanesque Chapel, 13th century Gothic cathedral, 15th century castle and the Hall of the Vicars. Long before the Norman invasion, The Rock of



Cashel was the seat of the High Kings of Munster, although there is little structural evidence of their time here. Most of the buildings on the current site date from the 12th and 13th centuries when the rock was gifted to the Church. The buildings represent both Hiberno-Romanesque and Germanic influences in their architecture. The complex has a character of its own, unique and native, and is one of the most remarkable collections of Celtic art and medieval architecture to be found anywhere in Europe.

Info on Rock of Cashel accessibility: Access for visitors with disabilities by prior arrangement.



In the historic Marble City, you will only ever be a short walk away from the **KILKENNY CASTLE**; the residence and headquarters of the powerful Butler family. The original castle was constructed in the early 13th century for the 4th Earl of Pembroke. The Castle later became the principal Irish residence of the powerful Butler family, and remained so for almost 600 years from 1391 to 1967. The Butler ownership ended when Arthur, 6th Marquess of Ormonde (1893-1971),

presented it to the people of Kilkenny in return for a token payment of £50. Due to major restoration works, the central block now includes a library, drawing room, and bedrooms decorated in 1830's splendour, as well as the beautiful Long Gallery. It has a large rose garden, in a field of 20 hectares. The castle has a beautiful view of

the Nore River as well as large trees and an ornamental lake are among the many points of interest. The castle is very well maintained and presented. There is also a children's playground.

Info on Killkenny Castle accessibility:

Parts of the Castle may not be suitable for people with limited mobility but ground floor rooms fully accessible. Accessible toilet facilities are available on request.

Some accessible parking spaces near site.

On the grounds, Garden partially and Park fully accessible.

Guiding leaflet of the Castle in Braille are available from the Ticket Desk.

Night in Dublin — Radisson Blu Golden Lane

Day 8: Dublin - Departure

Breakfast included at accommodation

Return to Dublin airport three hours prior to your flight's scheduled departure.

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Dingle Skellig Hotel info:

Hotel is wheelchair friendly. It offers 2 rooms with roll in showers and have 2 disabled parking spaces at the entrance to the hotel.

Rochestown Park Hotel Cork:

<http://disabledfriendlyhotels.com/go.jsp?id=0n20&o=105077&arrivingOnDate=13%20Aug%202019&arrivingOn=22%20Oct%202019&departingOn=23%20Oct%202019&show-tab=disabled>

Radisson Blu Royal Hotel Dublin (Golden Lane) is fully accessible and has 8 wheelchair friendly rooms.

Clayton Hotel Galway Disabled Access

Arrival and Car Parking Facilities

- We offer our accessible car parks and routes into the premises with a number of designated disabled parking bays. These disabled parking bays are located close to the main entrance of the hotel.

Main Entrance & Reception

- Clipboards are available to assist any guests who have difficulty accessing the Reception desk.
- We have at least one small table and one or two chairs provided for checkin if required, additional seating is provided in or coffee dock area located next to Reception.
- Induction loops can be made available.
- Familiarisation tours of the building can be provided upon request.
- Guests are advised to inform Reception at check in if they will require any assistance in the event of a fire evacuation.

Bar & Restaurant

- Our Hotel Bar & restaurant have accessible toilet facilities. These toilets are provided

with grab rails, adequate transfer space, and accessible sinks with lever taps and emergency alarm pull cords.

- Large print menus and portable induction loops are available in our restaurants upon request. Our Team Members will also be happy to take guests through the menu options if requested.
- Table service is provided in both our bar restaurant.
- In our restaurant where breakfast is a self service buffet, our Team Members will be happy to provide assistance upon request.
- A range of seating options is provided throughout our bars and restaurants, offering a reasonable degree of choice and flexibility.
- Televisions in our bar area can be set to display subtitles and these can be displayed upon request.

Bedrooms:

- Clayton Hotel Galway offer a number of bedrooms designed for use by disabled persons.
- The accessible bedrooms are mostly located close to Reception or a lift lobby.
- All of our accessible bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms
- The bedrooms are designed to allow wheelchair users adequate space to travel around the room and manoeuvre their wheelchair.
- A clear space to allow transfer from a wheelchair to the bed is provided on one side of the bed.
- Unfortunately, Clayton Hotel Galway cannot provide mobile hoists in bedrooms. However, should a guest wish to bring their own mobile hoist we may be able to arrange to have the bed raised to accommodate its use, if given sufficient advance notice of this at the time of booking.
- All bedrooms are provided with a desk and chair. Where space permits a tub chair and small table may be provided upon advance request. If during your stay you would like the bedroom furniture rearranged, or an item of furniture removed or provided, please contact Reception and we will do our utmost to assist.

- Accessible storage facilities are provided in all bedrooms.
- Televisions with a remote control are provided in all bedrooms. These televisions have the facility to display subtitles.
- The entrance doors to accessible bedrooms are fitted with wide angle door viewers (spyholes) at both seated and standing levels.
- All accessible bedrooms are provided with emergency assistance alarms.
- Fire evacuation procedures are displayed on the back of the bedroom door. Guests are reminded to inform Reception if they would require any assistance in the event of a fire evacuation.
- All of our hotel bedrooms are Non Smoking.

Bathrooms:

- All of our accessible bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms, with wide entry doors for ease of access.
- The dimensions of these bathrooms provide adequate turning space for a standard wheelchair.
- The toilet in the bathroom is provided with grab rails.
- Wet room facilities are available in some of the accessible bedrooms. These wet rooms have a level access shower rather than a shallow bath. If the use of a wet room is particularly important to you, we strongly recommend that you check availability with the hotel at the time of booking.
- All accessible bathrooms are fitted with accessible sinks, with lever taps.
- Soap is provided in soap dispensers. However, bars of soap can be obtained from Reception upon request.
- All accessible bathrooms are provided with an emergency assistance pull cord.
- Bathroom floors are of a non-slip material.
- Bath mats are available from Reception upon request.

Additional Information:

- Assistance dogs are welcome at the Clayton Hotel.
- All Clayton Hotel Galway Team Members receive disability awareness training.
- Should you require assistance during your stay please contact Reception and our team members will be happy to do all that they can to assist