



## Best of Ireland Tour modified for Sarah Weaver

Our ref IWF1128782

| Area               | Nights | Accommodations              |
|--------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Dublin             | 2      | Academy Plaza               |
| Cork ( Kinsale)    | 2      | Blue Haven Hotel            |
| Kerry (Kenmare)    | 2      | Ashfield House B&B          |
| Clare              | 2      | Gregans Castle Hotel        |
| Galway             | 2      | Ballynahinch Castle Hotel   |
| Mayo (Westport)    | 1      | Brooklodge B&B              |
| Donegal            | 2      | Ballyliffin Townhouse Hotel |
| Antrim             | 2      | Marine Hotel Ballycastle    |
| Louth(Carlingford) | 1      | Ghan House                  |

Please note that the accommodation is suggested only, and we are not holding availability. If you would like to confirm, we will be delighted to check these or similar hotels for your clients.



## 29 Aug / Day 1 – Dublin

Arrive in Dublin. In the afternoon, take in the attractions of Europe's most popular city. Don't miss **Trinity College, the Book of Kells, St Patrick's Cathedral** and trendy



TEMPLE BAR. Taking a break from sight-seeing, Grafton St. (Dublin's favourite shopping district) has everything you need to relax. Visit Bewley's Café and enjoy an Irish coffee in a favourite venue of many of Dublin's literary greats. Venture down Wicklow St. to find quaint bistros and the Powerscourt Shopping Centre, which boasts the

perfect combination of variety and a stunning setting or maybe go alfresco with a picnic in St. Stephen's Green. Once you're refreshed, it's back on the trail again seeking out all that Dublin has to offer.

*Dublin for 1 night*

## 30 Aug /Day 2 – Dublin

Today visit the famous **GUINNESS STOREHOUSE**. During the tour you'll discover all the history behind this famous brand and get an insight into the magic behind the "black stuff". Or maybe you'd prefer a hot drop of Whiskey? The Jameson distillery has got just what you need. Learn about John Jameson and the inspirational story behind his world-renowned whiskey, topped off with a tasting session. For the art-lover Dublin has a whole host of museums and art galleries from the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin Castle to the National Museum of Archaeology or the Irish Museum of Modern Art. What's more, entry is free, so there's no excuse not to sample some of the more artistic delights our "Fair City" has to offer. Your visit to Dublin will be packed with fond memories, unforgettable sights and sounds, but you still have the treat of a full Irish breakfast ahead of you the next morning. You've seen the best of Dublin and tomorrow you will continue on your trip to see the Best of Ireland.



*Dublin for 1 night*

**31 Aug / Day 3 – County Cork**

Pick up your car and start your exploration by heading south, past Wicklow & Waterford, with beaches and beautiful scenery as you travel into County Cork. Pass the city of Cork to the colourful and popular village of Kinsale, now firmly established as one of Ireland's premier destinations for foodies, with a host of restaurants covering all styles and preferences.



*Kinsale for 1 night*

**1 Sep / Day 4 – County Cork**

Kinsale is not just about food, it's also about traditional bars, beautiful buildings, narrow streets, shops and galleries and lots of activities on land and sea. Take a trip along the coast, to find plenty of beaches and welcoming villages. Perhaps head into the nearby city of Cork and visit the world-famous English Market.

*Kinsale for 1 night*

**2 Sep / Day 5 – County Kerry**

Your journey now takes you to the west coast, with options to explore one or more of the fingers of land at the south of Ireland, including the Beara peninsula, before reaching the famous Ring of Kerry, and your next base. For anyone that loves the great outdoors, Kerry is a dream destination. This charming county has it all, with



sublime scenery, exceptionally friendly locals, gorgeous little villages and excellent restaurants. Kerry's magnificent coastline is a series of peninsulas that open out into larger bays and give a totally unique feeling to the county, with craggy hills that tumble down into the choppy ocean below.

*Kenmare for 1 night*

**3 Sep / Day 6 – County Kerry**



The **Ring of Kerry** is one of Ireland's most scenic touring routes. At 179 km long, it circles the awe-inspiring Iveragh Peninsula. You'll 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. The road between the magnificent MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountains presents secret passes and valleys dotted along the fabled shores of Dingle and Kenmare Bays. 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. Follow the drive to Killarney by way of the Ladies View and the legendary Lakes of Killarney.



*Kenmare for 1 night*

#### **4 Sep / Day 7 – County Clare**

Now you head further north, crossing the River Shannon by ferry and entering County Clare. The Atlantic Ocean pounds the dramatic cliff-lined coastline. Your next base is an award-winning family-run 4-star 18<sup>th</sup> Century country house in the historic village of

Lisdoonvarna.

*Lisdoonvarna for 1 night*

## 5 Sep / Day 8 – County Clare

You are within a short drive of the imposing Cliffs of Moher, stretching five miles along the coast, at a height of over 200 meters above sea level, with often breathtaking views, Take a boat trip to get up close and feel the refreshing (we mean cold!) sea



spray. Head inland to explore the almost mystical landscape of The Burren, with mile upon mile of limestone pavement. It's a landscape like no other: rich with ancient history, cave systems and unique flora. Let us arrange a local guide to help you decipher the wonders of this unique area.

*Lisdoonvarna for 1 night*

## 6 Sep / Day 9 – County Galway

For the next leg of your coastal tour, pass Galway City and head to the west and the mountains and loughs of Connemara, where you will stay in an historic castle. This award-winning castle hotel is set in a private 700 acre estate of woodland, rivers and walks in the heart of Connemara. Though luxurious, the atmosphere is unpretentious. The setting is superb, overlooking the river which is also the hotel's own famous salmon fishery, with a backdrop of the beautiful 12 Bens Mountain range. As well as a well-renowned restaurant there is an atmospheric bar with an open log fire. Rooms are either in the older castle or the more modern riverside wing which has even better views. You are within a few miles of the villages of Roundstone and the popular tourist town of Clifden. Here you will find delightful shops, traditional music bars and a choice of excellent



restaurants.

*Connemara for 1 night*

## 7 Sep / Day 10 – County Galway



Connemara area is one of the few remaining in Ireland where the native tongue (Gaeilge) is still fluently spoken as a first language. Travel through the stunning Doolough Valley and enjoy the stunning scenery of the Killary Harbour. You can even take part on a cruise on Ireland's only fjord! Visit the exquisite neo-gothic **Kylemore Abbey**, nestled in a lush forest on the edge of Kylemore Lake. Clifden, Connemara's capital is well worth a visit and the scenic Sky Road drive just outside town should not be missed. However long you spend

in Connemara you will be constantly enchanted by the ever hanging scenery of mountains and valleys, lakes and beaches and bays.

*Connemara for 1 night*

## 8 Sep / Day 11 – County Mayo

A shorter drive today, following the route of the Wild Atlantic Way through Connemara into Mayo, and your next base in the colourful small town of Westport.

Mayo stands out as one of Ireland's most scenic counties. But while you may gasp in awe at the craggy coastline that has been lashed by the powerful Atlantic, make sure to remember that there's a lot more going on in Mayo. Ceide Fields is the most extensive Stone Age monument in the world, Croagh Patrick is where Ireland's patron saint fasted for 40 days in 441AD, and Achill Island is a stunning spot on the edge of Western Europe bursting with history and awe-inspiring sights. And if all that isn't enough, there's an abundance of charming villages to visit from beautifully situated Westport to the peaceful town of Cong.



*Westport for 1 night*



**9 Sep / Day 12 – Donegal**

Continue your tour of the west, driving through Sligo then into County Donegal, passing Donegal Town, and keep on to the Inishowen peninsula, the most northerly part of the whole island of Ireland and an area rich with ancient history.



*Inishowen for 1 night*

**10 Sep / Day 13 – Donegal**

This corner of Donegal is a delight to explore, with many kilometres of scenic driving and some of the best beaches in Ireland. Malin Head, at the tip of the Inishowen peninsula, is the most Northerly point on mainland Ireland (yet it is in the “South” rather than Northern Ireland...). On a clear day, the views stretch across to the Scottish Hebrides and Kintyre peninsula. There are many Neolithic sites – standing stones and cairns – if you are interested in pre-history, and a must-visit is the Doagh Famine Village, which tells the story of Ireland from 1845 to the present day in a very different style from any other tourist attraction.

*Inishowen for 1 night*

**11 Sep / Day 14 – County Antrim**

Next you cross the border into Northern Ireland, perhaps stopping to explore Derry/Londonderry. You can take a tour of the historic walls and learn more about the city’s role in Ireland’s history for over 350 years. Continue on to the famous Antrim coast and the market town of Bushmills, famous for whiskey, and just a stone’s throw



from the Giant’s Causeway.

*Antrim for 1 night*

## 12 Sep / Day 15 – County Antrim

This famous coastline is packed with sights within a short drive, including the geological phenomenon of the Giant's Causeway, and the much-photographed clifftop ruins of haunting Dunluce Castle. For the more adventurous, test your nerve and head for heights by venturing across the suspended rope bridge at Carrick-a-Rede.

*Antrim for 1 night*

## 13 Sep / Day 16 – Carlingford

To complete your journey, head south from Country Antrim to the coastal town of Carlingford, just back across the border. You could take a detour into the revitalised Victorian city of Belfast en route if you wish. The Medieval Heritage town of Carlingford was raided by the Vikings in the 8th and 9th centuries and then the Normans in the 12th century. Walking the narrow streets you can discover atmospheric pubs and other gems such as craft and antique shops, as well as the ruins of the castle. The inherent natural beauty of the area has been harnessed by the variety of activities available locally. You are also perfectly located to visit the wonderful 5000 year old archaeological site at Newgrange.



*Carlingford for 1 night*

## 14 Sep / Day 17 – departure

Time to drive back to Dublin Airport where you drop off your car and catch your return flight.

| Dates                       |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>29 Aug – 14 Sep 2020</b> |  |



#### **SERVICES INCLUDED IN QUOTE**

- 16 nights accommodation at the hotels suggested above or similar, rooms with private bath/shower
- 16 full Irish Breakfasts at your hotels
- Car rental for 15 days (WV Jetta manual or similar)
  
- Visits included in the price:
  - Cliffs of Moher
  - Guinness Storehouse
  - Giants Causeway

#### **NOT INCLUDED IN PACKAGE PRICE**

- Beverages
- Any other services or entrance fees not stated in the above