

The Best of Ireland Land Tour

| 9 Days • 8 Nights • Dublin to Dublin

May 15th-23rd, 2024



Inclusions

- 8 nights and 9 days at elegant 5-star designated hotels
- Luxury motorcoach exclusively for this group
- Tour Director and U of L escorts for the entire tour
- 8 breakfasts
- 2 Lunches
- 8 Dinners: *Wine included on some nights*
- All entrance fees for included tours
- All gratuities to hotel staff for portage and meals
- All hotel taxes and fees
- All baggage handling
- Wine and cheese reception in the wine cellar of Ashford Castle
- Green fees for the Ashford Castle 9-hole golf course
- Use of the steam room and relaxation pool at Ashford Castle
- Ashford Castle history tour
- 2 hr. exclusive boat tour around Ashford Castle to a remote historic island
- Documents Party in Louisville
- U of L gifts

Exclusions

- Airfare to and from Dublin, Ireland
- Gratuities for the Tour Director and Driver
- Items of a personal nature
- Non-included meals and drinks



Payment Information

Land Tour Cost: \$4799 per person (based on double occupancy)

** This tour is limited to the first 34 passengers that sign up. Reservations will be accepted in the order received. A non-refundable deposit of \$350 per person is due at time of reservation. There is a 4% fee if paid by credit card. Final non-refundable payment is due February 1st, 2024.*

**For questions or to reserve your cabin, please contact David Cassel or Kim Sorensen.
Phone: 817-275-3330 | Email: info@novustravelltd.com**



About The Tour

Join the University of Louisville for this first class, 10 day-spectacular land tour of the Best of Ireland while staying in some of the most historic and luxurious hotels in Ireland.

Itinerary Overview

WED. MAY 15TH	Trinity City Hotel • <i>Arrival & Tour of Dublin</i>
THUR. MAY 16TH	Mount Juliet Estate • <i>Rock of Cashel & Jerpoint Abbey</i>
FRI. MAY 17TH	Maryborough Hotel • <i>Waterford Crystal & Mahon Falls</i>
SAT. MAY 18TH	Great Southern Hotel • <i>Blarney Castle & Muckross House</i>
SUN. MAY 19TH	Great Southern Hotel • <i>Tour of Dingle in Southwest Ireland</i>
MON. MAY 20TH	Ashford Castle • <i>Tarbert Ferry to Cliffs of Moher</i>
TUES. MAY 21ST	Ashford Castle • <i>Tour Western Ireland's Killary Harbour & Kylemore Abbey</i>
WED. MAY 22ND	Ashford Castle • <i>Leisure & Boating At Ashford Castle</i>
THURS. MAY 23RD	Depart Ireland • <i>Dublin & Return Flights</i>



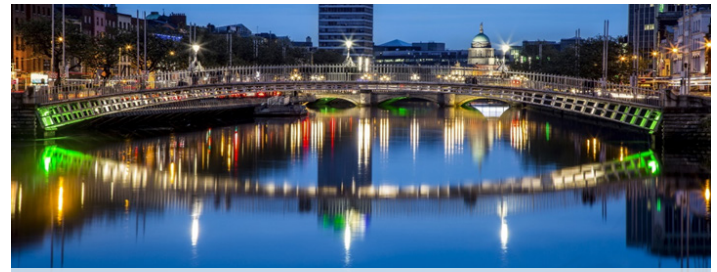
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Saint Patrick's Cathedral



Jerpoint Abbey



Dublin



Day 01 – Wednesday, May 15th | Arrival & Tour of Dublin

Welcome to Dublin! Upon arrival, meet your tour director and have an orientation tour of Dublin including O'Connell Street, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Trinity College. Dublin has all the attractions of a modern city, combined with the beauty and heritage of the past. Elegant shops, hotels, galleries, art-house cinemas, coffee houses and a stunning variety of restaurants have sprung up on almost every street in the capital. Roughly half of the Irish Republic's population of 4.6 million people live in Dublin and its suburbs. As capital city of Ireland, Dublin is steeped in history and culture and has plenty of sights to see from museums to Georgian squares, Viking artifacts and cobbled streets.

- Arrive At Dublin Airport
- Check Into Trinity City Hotel (1 Night Stay)
- Depart Airport And Tour Dublin City
- Enjoy A Group Welcome Dinner

Day 02 – Thursday, May 16th | Rock of Cashel & Jerpoint Abbey

Set on a dramatic outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale, the Rock of Cashel, iconic in its historic significance, possesses the most impressive cluster of medieval buildings in Ireland. Among the monuments to be found there is a round tower, a high cross, a Romanesque chapel, a Gothic cathedral, an abbey, the Hall of the Vicars Choral and a fifteenth-century Tower House. Originally the seat of the kings of Munster, according to legend St. Patrick himself came here to convert King Aenghus to Christianity. Brian Boru was crowned High King at Cashel in 978 and made it his capital.

In 1101 the site was granted to the church and Cashel swiftly rose to prominence as one of the most significant centres of ecclesiastical power in the country. The surviving buildings are remarkable. Cormac's Chapel, for example, contains the only surviving Romanesque frescoes in Ireland. The Rock of Cashel is one of Ireland's most spectacular and – deservedly – most visited tourist attractions.

Founded in the 12th century, Jerpoint Abbey is one of the best examples of a medieval Cistercian Abbey in Ireland. The architectural styles within the church, constructed in the late twelfth century, reflect the transition from Romanesque to Gothic architecture. The tower and cloister date to the fifteenth century.

Jerpoint is renowned for its detailed stone sculptures found throughout the monastery. Dating from the 13th to the 16th centuries these include mensa tombs from the O'Tunney school, an exquisite incised depiction of two 13th century knights, the decorated Cloister Arcades along with other effigies and memorials.

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Rock of Cashel



Mohan Falls



Waterford Crystal



Muckross House



Day 02 | Rock of Cashel & Jerpoint Abbey Continued...

- Check Out Of The Hotel
- Travel To Rock Of Cashel
- Lunch
- Visit Jerpoint Abbey
- Check In Into Mount Juliet Estate
(One Night Stay)
- Enjoy A Group Dinner At The Hotel

Day 03 – Friday, May 17th | Waterford Crystal & Mahon Falls

The House of Waterford is located in Waterford, Ireland, a Viking city built in 914AD. This esteemed factory is the beating heart of the world's luxury crystal manufacture and is where the most intricate, authentic and masterful crystal pieces come to life. The factory is situated at the centre of the Viking Triangle in Waterford, a cluster of museums which detail the proud history of this great city.

The tumbling Mahon Falls are located in the Comeragh Mountains, County Waterford, near the village of Lemybrien. The falls are lined with sheer rock faces and provide an area of peace and tranquillity.

Mahon Falls is an 80m waterfall formed where the waters of the River Mahon plunge over sandstone cliffs on the southern slopes of the Comeragh Mountains, in County Waterford. There is a car park close to the falls with a moderate walk to get to their base and beautiful views back towards the sea and the town of Dungarvan.

- Check Out Of Hotel
- Waterford Crystal
- Mahon Falls
- Lunch
- Board The Coach And Make Your Way To Maryborough Hotel *(One Night Stay)*
- Enjoy A Group Dinner At The Hotel

Day 04 – Saturday, May 18th | Blarney Castle & Muckross House

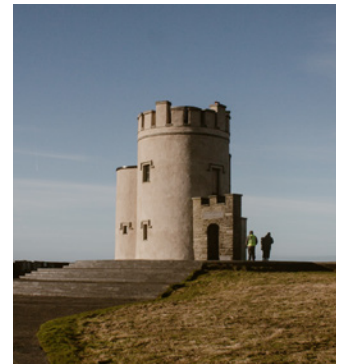
Built nearly six hundred years ago by one of Ireland's greatest chieftans, Cormac MacCarthy, Blarney Castle has been attracting attention ever since. Over the last few hundred years, millions have flocked to Blarney making it a world landmark and one of Ireland's greatest treasures. That might have something to do with the Blarney Stone, the legendary Stone of Eloquence, found at the top of the tower. Kiss it and you'll never again be stuck for a few words.



Blarney Castle



Dingle Peninsula



Cliffs of Moher



Dingle Peninsula

Day 04 | Blarney Castle & Muckross House Continued...

Blarney Castle is a tower house, a type of fortification built by Gaelic lords and the Anglo-Irish between the 15th and 17th centuries. Tower houses are typically four or five stories tall with one or two main chambers, plus several ancillary chambers on each floor. Blarney Castle is an unusually large tower house, and it comprises at least two towers – the second one was added in the 1500s. You can see the point the two phases meet as a vertical line in the masonry on the north elevation. The walls are 18 feet thick at the base, gradually sloping inwards as they rise. This makes the building more stable but would also have helped with defense: when an object was dropped from the top it would bounce off the wall on the way down and fly outwards into the enemy.

Built in 1874 to welcome the return of the family after an absence of 54 years, Blarney house or Muckross House as it is also called, may surprise by being in the Scottish baronial style, which is rare in the southern half of Ireland. Its architect was John Lanyon from Belfast. Some of the rooms have been changed over the years but still incorporates elements of several other styles.

- Check Out of Hotel
- Blarney Castle
- Lunch
- Depart for Muckross House in Killarney
- Arrive At Muckross House
- Leave for Great Southern Hotel Killarney (Two Night Stay)
- Enjoy a Group Dinner

Day 05 – Sunday, May 19th | Tour of Dingle in Southwest Ireland

Dingle is a small port town on southwest Ireland's Dingle Peninsula, known for its rugged scenery, trails and sandy beaches. A statue of long-time harbour resident Fungie the dolphin is by the waterfront. Clifftop Dún Beag is a prehistoric promontory fort to the southwest.

- Depart the Hotel
- Tour Dingle
- Lunch
- Return to the Great Southern Hotel Killarney (Tip: Take a trip on the jaunting cars)
- Enjoy a Group Dinner

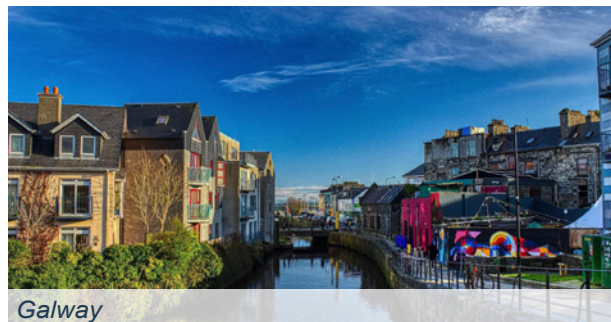
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Kylemore Abbey & Connemara



Killary Harbor



Galway

Day 06 – Monday, May 20th | Tarbert Ferry to Cliffs of Moher

After lunch in Doolin, One of Ireland's favorite visitor experiences & tourist attractions, the Cliffs of Moher, which towers over the rugged West County Clare coast. Visually spectacular, the Cliffs of Moher sit astride the striking landscape of the Burren on one side and the Wild Atlantic Ocean on the other. Rising out of the Atlantic waters to a height of over 700ft at O'Brien's Tower and running along the coast of Clare for almost 8 miles, the Cliffs of Moher were formed over 320 million years ago, and today form part of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.

Next, travel to magnificent Ashford Castle for 3 spectacular nights at one of the most luxurious resorts in the world. Ashford Castle on the shores of Lough Corrib was built in the 12th century by the Anglo Norman family, the DeBurgo's. Over a hundred years later in 1852 Sir Benjamin Lee Guinness purchased the Ashford Estate. His son Lord Ardilaun inherited Ashford in 1868 & is responsible for the numerous woodland areas on the estate.

The castle has had a long list of famous and distinguished guests; it was the place of residence for many of the actors who starred in the film "The Quiet Man", made in 1951 in Cong, starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. The grounds around the estate were used in several of the scenes. Presently Ashford Castle is regarded as one of the world's top hotels.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depart the Hotel• Travel to the Cliffs of Moher | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch in Doolin• Travel to Ashford Castle (<i>Three Night Stay</i>) |
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Day 07 – Tuesday, May 21st | Tour Western Ireland's Killary Harbour & Kylemore Abbey

The beautiful village of Leenane, snugly situated at the head of Killary Harbour, is often described as the 'Gateway to Connemara'. The roads from Maam, Clifden, and Westport meet at this point. Killary Harbour extends ten miles inland and with the mountains rising steeply on either side provides what is probably the best scenery in Ireland.

Kylemore Abbey is one of Ireland's best loved and most iconic tourist attractions and home to the Benedictine nuns since 1920. Visit the restored rooms of the Abbey and learn about its history of tragedy, romance, education, innovation and spirituality. Explore the 6-acre Victorian Walled Garden with its delightfully restored garden buildings. Discover woodland and lakeshore walks that will take you on a beautiful journey through the 1,000-acre estate.

Depart Kylemore Abbey for Galway City for some free time and lunch on your own. As soon as you arrive, enjoy a walk through the city streets. There, you'll find lively pubs, independent shops and winding cobblestone streets packed with students, artists, writers and craftspeople. Return to Ashford Castle that afternoon.

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Views at Ashford Castle



Day 07 | Tour Western Ireland's Killary Harbour & Kylemore Abbey Continued...

This evening prepare yourself for a fun Irish evening at Pat Cohan's, walking distance from Ashford Castle. Pat Cohan's Pub in Cong was also made famous in the movie, "The Quiet Man", where many of the scenes were filmed. Filmed in 1951, "The Quiet Man" starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, became a global success and was nominated for 7 Academy Awards and won two. This iconic John Ford movie is still one of the most popular Irish movies to this day and was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant". Pat Cohan's was at the center of this award-winning magic and it remains much the same to this day. We have reserved the entire pub, just for our U of L passengers! Dinner, drinks, and Irish entertainment will make this a very memorable evening.

- Depart Ashford Castle & Arrive in Leenane
- Travel to Kylemore Abbey via Killary Fjord
- Arrive in Kylemore Abbey
- Depart Kylemore Abbey for Galway City for Lunch & Time on Your Own
- Enjoy Dinner, Drinks, & Entertainment at Pat Cohans

DAY 08 – Wednesday, May 22nd | Leisure & Boating at Ashford Castle

Enjoy a day on your own to take advantage of the activities at Ashford Castle such as falconry, Archery, fishing, equestrian, golf, cycling, or just wandering the beautiful Ashford grounds.

This morning, enjoy a 1 hour historical walking tour of Ashford Castle, exclusively for the U of L group. In the early afternoon, join the group for an exclusive historic boat ride around Ashford Castle. Explore the lakes most famous island set on 100 beautiful acres of state-owned forest park. While on the island enjoy a guided tour of St. Patrick's 5th Century Monastic site.

This evening join the group for a wine and cheese reception in the wine cellar of Ashford Castle then an elegant farewell dinner in the George V dining room at Ashford.

- Explore Ashford Castle at Your Leisure
- Afternoon Boat Ride Around Ashford Castle
- Wine & Cheese at the Wine Cellar
- Elegant Farewell Dinner in the George V Dining Room

Day 09 – Thursday, May 23rd | Dublin & Return Flights

Depart Ashford Castle on the west coast for a drive through the center of Ireland to Dublin on the east coast for your flight home.



Mt. Juliet Hotel



Trinity City Hotel



Maryborough Estate



Ashford Castle



Great Southern Hotel

Trinity City Hotel

The Trinity City Hotel is an Irish owned hotel, centrally located with contemporary comforts, and distinctively Dublin. It's an urban hotel with a delightfully different interior. Conveniently located, you can easily explore the old town within minutes of the hotel.

Mt. Juliet Hotel

Like all the best stories, Mount Juliet Estate is, at heart, a love story. Built on a ridge overlooking the River Nore by the first Earl of Carrick, it is named after his beloved wife, Lady Julianna Butler. In the centuries that followed, the estate experienced the fullness of Irish history, a magnificent icon of Kilkenny that changed with the world around it and the distinctive characters that occupied it but never lost the qualities that guests can still enjoy to this day.

Maryborough Estate

The Maryborough's Georgian Manor House was built in 1710 by Mr. Richard Newenham. The Maryborough Hotel is minutes from Cork City Centre, The Maryborough has a character and style all of its own. Set in 18 acres of 300-year-old listed gardens and woodland, this family-owned boutique hotel affords guests an experience in luxury itself and is among the top hotels in Cork.

Great Southern Hotel

Built in 1854, Great Southern Killarney still stands proudly as Killarney's Premier Historic Hotel and is situated on 6 acres of beautiful gardens right in the heart of Killarney town centre. The hotel is a member of the internationally renowned collection of independent hotels, Preferred Hotels and Resorts and Historic Hotels Worldwide; awarded the Best Historic Hotel in Europe in their Awards of Excellence.

Ashford Castle

Through the grand stone gates, a royal adventure awaits you. This remarkable 800-year old castle is widely recognized as Ireland's top hotel destination and one of the finest hotels in the world. Once the home of the Guinness family, it has a long and illustrious history that you will learn during your Ashford Castle history tour. Situated on 350 beautiful acres, you'll discover exquisite interiors, delicious cuisine, and service unsurpassed by any hotel.