

Ireland - The Emerald Isle

May 23 - At home pick up and transport to airport for overnight flight to Shannon.

May 24 - Arrival in Shannon. We will head right out to the rocky Burren region to watch a fascinating demonstration by the local border collies as they direct flocks of sheep. We'll also explore the Caherconnell Ringfort and museum. Next we'll visit the astounding Cliffs of Moher before heading to our hotel in Galway and, time permitting, visit the cathedral and downtown.

May 25 - We will head north and west from Galway and along the Wild Atlantic Way and explore the area of disappearing lakes and the lovely old Dunguaire Castle before heading to Connemara National Park. Those of you familiar with Flat Rock, NC, might recognize the namesake for Carl Sandburg's home. We'll return to Galway in time for a music performance and dinner.

May 26 - Today we will depart our hotel and drive along the perimeter of the scenic Dingle Peninsula with our local guide. We will visit Dingle town and the Blasket Island Center and the famous Gallarus Oratory, an early Christian church dating from approximately 1100 AD. We'll arrive at our hotel in Killarney in time for dinner. You may choose to visit Kate Kearney's Cottage for some live music.

May 27 - We will spend the day exploring Killarney National Park, beginning with a scenic boat trip on Ross Lake followed by a jaunting cart ride through the town and forest to the magnificent Muckross House. We will have lunch here followed by a house tour and a chance to stroll the lakefront gardens. This evening we'll enjoy a nice dinner before taking our seats at the Celtic Steps Show nearby.

May 28 - Depart Killarney and visit the Rock of Cashel on our way to our lunch destination of Kinsale, a charming south coast village. We plan to arrive at our city center hotel in the medieval city of Kilkenny with time to explore the castle and Woolen Exchange.

May 29 - Following a hearty Irish breakfast you may visit the Black Abbey and the Kilkenny Museum, stroll the twisted narrow streets of the walled city, or just enjoy some down time in the parkland that surrounds the ancient castle. Today is an easy and open day before a 1.5 hour drive to Dublin.

May 30 - We will begin our day in Dublin with a city tour led by our private step-on guide who will include stops at Trinity College to view the Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Phoenix Park and the main sights of Dublin. Lunch at O'Neil's Carvery and your choice of either the Jameson Experience or the Guinness Tour. Overnight in downtown Dublin.

May 31 - A morning flight home or an afternoon ferry to Wales if you wish to extend your time!



The Dunloe, near Killarney



Lake Killarney



Rock of Cashel

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