



The living museum at Bunratty, jaunting car in Killarney, the brilliant green countryside, coastal scenery and 'lilt' of Irish voices all make for an exceptional tour.



O'Brien's Tower, marks the highest point of the awe inspiring Cliffs of Moher

Focus on Ireland

TOUR PACE

Well paced with three-nights in Killarney, and overnight stays in Galway and Blarney. The driving days are of a reasonable length with frequent and often scenic stops offering photo opportunities.

HOTELS

The four hotels on this tour range from the contemporary Burlington in Dublin and Galway's stylish Clayton Hotel, to the cosmopolitan Killarney Towers and the Blarney Golf Resort, set amongst 170 acres of the beautiful wooded Shournagh Valley.

DAY 1 – DEPART USA. Board your overnight flight.

DAY 2 – ARRIVE DUBLIN. Welcome to a land of legends, of misty mountains, lovely lakes and a warm friendly greeting wherever you go. On arrival at Dublin Airport, your *transfer from the airport* leaves for the tour hotel at 08:00, 11:00 & 13:30. Later, a *sightseeing tour of Dublin* takes you past the *Customs House*, along *O'Connell Street* and through *Phoenix Park*. Travel along the river Liffey to see the *Guinness Brewery and Dublin Castle* before admiring the 18th century buildings of the *Georgian section* of the city. Later, join your Tour Director and fellow guests for a *Welcome Drink*. Hotel: Burlington

DAY 3 – DUBLIN – GALWAY. Drive through the 'forty shades of green' landscape of the Emerald Isle. Pass by the former fortress town of Athlone on the River Shannon, to reach historic *Galway*, 'City of the Tribes', at the mouth of the Corrib River. Join your Tour Director to see the infamous *Lynch Memorial* and the *Church of St. Nicholas*, where Christopher Columbus reputedly prayed before his discovery of America. Also see the aged *Spanish Arch* and *Eyre Square*, dedicated to the late President, John F. Kennedy. Hotel: Clayton (B)

DAY 4 – GALWAY – LIMERICK – KILLARNEY. Take the scenic route through the mysterious rocky limestone *landscape of the Burren*, riddled with underground caverns and streams and known for its rare flora. *Stop at the Visitors' Centre at the 700-foot Cliffs of Moher with breathtaking views of the Clare Coast.* Not far from here Ireland's rural heritage comes to life as you *walk through the cobbled streets of Bunratty Folk Park, lined with buildings from a bygone era.* Later, stop in *Limerick*, famous for rhymes, lace and elegant Georgian houses. Here your Tour Director shows you *King John's castle, St Mary's Cathedral* and the *Treaty Stone*. Continue past the charming thatched cottages of *Adare*, through the land of song and legend to Killarney. Hotel: Killarney Towers/Killarney Avenue (B,D)

DAY 5 – RING OF KERRY EXCURSION. After a hearty Irish breakfast, *take a leisurely excursion around the magnificent Ring of Kerry to enjoy the breathtaking views over mountains and sea.* Pass through the small towns of *Killorglin*, where the famous Puck Fair takes place, and *Caherciveen*, birthplace of the great patriot Daniel O'Connell. Follow the narrow road as it winds along the cliffs and through the fishing town of *Waterville* and delightful villages like *Sneem*. Cross the peat bogs of the Black Mountains to *Moll's Gap* and admire Queen Victoria's '*Ladies View*'. *Back in Killarney, enjoy a memorable ride on a traditional horse-drawn jaunting car with the local 'Jarvies'.* (B)

DAY 6 – DINGLE PENINSULA AND BLASKET CENTRE. Begin the day, if you wish, with an included insight from our *local guest speaker, about Ireland's number one industry, 'Tourism' and its effects on the local and national economy.* Travel through the town of *Tralee*, famous for its Rose of Tralee Festival and out to the rugged *Dingle Peninsula*, a land of blue gold hills, which inspired films such as '*Ryan's Daughter*' and '*Far and Away*'. At the very tip of the peninsula, *visit the Blasket Centre* which celebrates the language, culture and tradition of the Blasket Islanders. *With your Dine-Around option tonight,*

create your own personal dining experience by choosing from our selection of local restaurants. (B,DA)

DAY 7 – KILLARNEY – COBH – CORK – BLARNEY. Journey through the rugged *Derrynasaggart Mountains* to the pretty riverside village of *Cobh*, which was the last port of call for the *Titanic.* *As you walk through the Heritage Centre relive the story of emigration of Irish people and the life of this once great passenger port.* Then drive along spacious Grand Parade and South Mall of Cork, seeing the Court House and fine Georgian houses. At nearby *Blarney*, visit the *15C Castle*, home of the famous *Stone of Eloquence*, once kissed - never forgotten! You also have a chance to shop for woolens at the *Blarney Mills* before reaching your hotel. Hotel: Blarney Golf Resort (B,D)

DAY 8 – BLARNEY – CAHIR – ROCK OF CASHEL – KILDARE – DUBLIN. This morning drive to Fermoy and through the Golden Vale with its beautiful pastoral countryside to *Cahir* to see its imposing 15th century *castle*, featured in the film *Excalibur*. Continue to *St. Patrick's Rock of Cashel*, home to Irish kings, for amazing views of one of Ireland's most popular monuments. *Next visit the Irish National Stud and Japanese gardens in Kildare*, before arriving early afternoon in Ireland's fun-loving capital, for last minute shopping and sightseeing. Tonight, consider enjoying a farewell dinner and Irish cabaret to round off your tour. Hotel: Burlington. (B)

DAY 9 – RETURN TO USA. Bid farewell to Ireland, as your memorable tour comes to an end. *Departure transfers* arrive at Dublin Airport at 07:30, 09:30 & 11:30. (B)



Enjoy the scenic Ring of Kerry



The pubs of Dublin are full of fun with a long tradition of song and music-making