

# Ireland Revisited

SEPT 20TH – SEPT 29TH, 2026

*First, a word about the weather. The Irish always prepare for rain, and then when it doesn't rain...it's a great day! There is no bad weather, only wrong clothes. Here, you will see, we're preparing for great days!*

## Sunday, September 20

London Heathrow Airport – British Airways leaves London 12:55 p.m. Arrive Dublin 2:25 p.m. We will meet by a coach and transferred to our Dublin Hotel, which is located in the Christchurch District, close to everything. Check in, rest and/or have lunch in nearby eateries (list to follow.) We won't have jet lag by now so we can get stuck right in (an Irish expression for getting going.) If you're feeling like you'd like to take a Hop On – Hop Off Bus Tour, this would be a good afternoon to do that so you can get your bearings. The bus leaves right by Christchurch cathedral. Cost is \$34 for 24 hrs. I will provide a simple walking map of Dublin as the main attractions are located within walking distance of our hotel.

## Monday, September 21

Our first full day in Dublin will provide plenty of options for you to consider. Dublin is full of history. It dates to the 9<sup>th</sup> Century when it was a Viking trading settlement. It was ruled by the English from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century until 1921, when Ireland became independence, and Dublin became its capital. It has fine Georgian (neoclassical) architecture, and you'll enjoy the many colorful doors that adorn its buildings entryways. St. Stephen's Green (the Central Park) is worth a stroll, and you will find a fine array of these colorful doors. Just across from St Stephen's Green you can visit Grafton Street where there are fun shops, pubs, and eateries. A couple of blocks parallel is Dawson Street, a quieter option where we have enjoyed nice meals and drinks in attractive pubs and restaurants. These two streets lead you to St. Stephen's Green on one end, and Trinity College in the opposite direction. Trinity College is worth your time to just wander through its magnificent campus, but the real treasure is to visit its library, which houses over 200,000 of the oldest books in existence as well as the famous Book of Kells. For the history buffs amongst us there are history tours that will let you dedicate time to seeing the amazing long hall library, the Book of Kells, and Dublin Castle (just up the street) for about \$60.00 per person. Again, if you purchased a Hop-on – Hop off bus pass you will see and hear of the many historical sites that make up this great city. One of the most popular stops is the Guinness factory – a Dublin treasure.

The evening is open to more possibilities. The Temple Bar district is chock full of pubs and restaurants where you will find all sorts of entertainment and the "craic". The Quays and Oliver St. John Gogarty are fun. If you want to venture across the River Liffey to the Arlington Hotel, they have a "Celtic Nights" live music revue and live music every day. O'Donoghue's Pub (up from St. Stephen's Green) is famous because the Dubliners (group that I referenced in my music email) played there often. There are pleasant, quiet bars on Dawson Street too.

## Tuesday, September 22 - Final Day in Dublin's Fair City – where the girls are so pretty (Molly Malone)

- **Dublin Pubs:** Temple Bar, The Oliver St. John Gogarty, The Quays
- **Near St. Stephen's Green:** Davy Byres, O'Donoghue's
- **The Duke:** 9 Duke Street - Starting point for the Literary Pub Crawl
  - <http://www.dublinpubcrawl.com>
  - (15 euros) 7:30 P.M. Half mile walk. The pub, the poet, & the pint. Ranked #2 in "World's Best Walks"
- **Dawson Street** (near Trinity College) has several great restaurants and enjoyable bars.
- **Eateries:** Parnell Heritage Bar & Grill, Parnell Street
  - off O'Connell Street – North Dublin (cross over the River Liffey)
- **Arlington Hotel:** Near O'Connell St Bridge on the North side of the River Liffey
- **Walks:** Trinity College, St. Stephen's Green, Temple Bar District

## Wednesday, September 23 - Today will be an early start (8:00 a.m.)

Today we begin our tour of the Emerald Isles, and we'll arrive in County Cork, Ireland's Rebel County, the largest and southernmost county in Ireland, later in the day. This will be a long and scenic travel day so sit back and enjoy. First, we will journey through the Wicklow Mountains and take in some of Ireland's most scenic views. Wicklow is known as the Garden of Ireland. Enjoy the sights of Guinness Lake and Glenmacnass Waterfalls in Sally Gap, a breathtaking mountain pass drive. (17 miles, 48 minutes.) From here, we will venture to Cahir Castle and Swiss Cottage in Co. Tipperary (110 miles, 2h) or The Rock of Cashel. Take a leisurely visit.

We will head to our city hotel (about 45 miles.) where we'll explore the neighborhood and see where the "craic" is before we settle in for the night.

## Thursday, September 24

We will be greeted by our private coach for a tour of beautiful County Cork. We will explore more of Cork tomorrow, but for today, we'll head for the coast.

Take the morning to visit Cobh's fascinating maritime history and emigration legacy.

It is said that more than half who sailed to the U.S. left from here. In 1912, the Titanic last stopped here before heading out on its final and only voyage. The Lusitania, the British ocean liner, was sunk by German U Boats just 11 miles off this coast in 1915. The Titanic Experience and the Cobh Museums are both worth seeing. [www.titanic.ie](http://www.titanic.ie) or [info@titanic.ie](mailto:info@titanic.ie).

Southwest Cork offers stunning landscapes. After Cobh, we will venture to the town of Kinsale, about 30 miles along the coast. Kinsale is a historic port and fishing town. It is a destination town for both Irish and overseas visitors and is referred to as The Gourmet Capital of Ireland. I will provide a list of restaurants for you to consider. There are historic walking tours available if you wish, or we can go on them alone. I'm contacting friends there to find a great music venue. I'll keep you posted.

There is history to explore here too. Charles Fort (a star-shaped military fortress) was the principal stronghold of Britain in controlling Ireland until 1922, when Ireland gained independence from Britain. There is also a touching 9/11 Memorial, which is a must see.

Return to Cork City for a night cap.

## Friday, September 25

Our final stop in Cork will be the world-famous Blarney Castle. Explore its gorgeous gardens and, if you dare, do what most people come here to do – kiss the Blarney Stone. You will, if you do this, never be lost for words (you'll gain the gift of gab!)

The gardens and castle are self-guided and cost 19 euros/senior rate. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Well, it should be a lively bus ride with all that gabbing going on.

From here, we have an easy travel day (about 1 hour) to one of the most beautiful counties in Ireland – Kerry (approximately 60 miles.) This is Ireland's lake district. We have chosen a very special hotel for the next two nights. The options for dining are great here and you have a choice between casual dining in the cellar or more formal dining in the restaurant. Relax and enjoy the scenery in this special place. Our hotel is located about one mile to the town of Killarney, so walking is an option, if you feel like going out. Taxis and Ubers are available also. Shop till you drop or have a drink or two in town – it's your choice.

## Saturday, September 26

Many of you will have heard of the incredible Dingle Peninsula, the westernmost tip of Ireland. You will see a lot of the Irish language in print and spoken in this region, pastel-colored buildings and great "craic." We will take the Sleah Head drive, one of Ireland's most scenic routes, which begins and ends in Dingle (it takes about ½ a day.) I am sure we will enjoy a pint in Dingle upon our return.

## Sunday, September 27

We will leave beautiful Killarney after breakfast to head to our final destination in Ireland; Westport, Co. Mayo (134 miles.) Today we will visit the famous Cliffs of Moher along the way. One of Ireland's favorite visitor experiences, the cliffs will leave you awestruck. There are safe paths for you to experience them (not like in the past when people would venture to the edges – don't do that – people have been swept over!) Pray for good weather! Otherwise, bring rain gear and a sense of humor.

Not far away, the town of Lisdoonvarna will have its annual Matchmaking Festival going on during the month of September if anyone's interested. People come from all over the world to join in the merriment. [www.matchmakerireland.com](http://www.matchmakerireland.com).

There is a PBS documentary, Embracing Ireland's County Clare, that will give you insight into the culture of this region. You might say there are no strangers here, only friends you haven't met yet (WB Yeats.)

[Ireland Cliffs, Famous Cliffs in Ireland | Cliffs of Moher](#)

Westport is a lovely town to spend our next two days. We hope you'll enjoy the hotel we've selected for you.

## **Monday, September 28 - Tour Day.**

Today we'll explore rural Ireland at its finest. When you imagine rural Ireland, what do you picture? Sheep, cows, tractors? Well, you're right! We'll set off from Westport to view iconic sites like Kylemore Abbey located on the banks of Kylemore Lough (Lake) and Ashford Castle, an 800-year-old estate once owned by the Guinness family and is today an example of one of the finest five-star resorts in Ireland.

## **Tuesday, September 29**

Today is a free day to enjoy Westport at your leisure. A short distance you may want to view the "Coffin Ship" a powerful famine memorial. For those up for adventure, how about a 3-hour hike up Croagh Patrick, a small mountain (2,500 feet) above the bay. This pilgrimage to honor St. Patrick and replace paganism with Christian beliefs. Or maybe we will arrange for a sheepdog demonstration in Connemara.

We will end our day with a final drink together and celebrate our shared Irish experience at our hotel.

We will be taking a coach back to a Dublin Airport hotel in the evening so that we can be close by for our flight tomorrow morning.

## **Wednesday, September 30**

British Airways Flight 827 - 10:30 a.m.

Arrive LHR 12:00 noon

Transfer to British Airways Flight 287 – 2:20 p.m.

Arrive SFO at 5:30 p.m.