

Here's a sketch of your schedule for Ireland. It's always possible and sometimes inevitable that this schedule may be adjusted along the way. We'll have a local guide join us in each of the major hubs along our route, Dublin, Galway, Limerick, Killarney, and Kilkenny.

We're generally under way by 9:00 AM for daily touring. If we have to go earlier for traffic or road construction, we'll discuss it at dinner or you'll get a note from me via whatsapp. Our tour day will generally end by 5:00 PM each day.

Dinners are included for 8 of our tour days. For suggestions on dining for the other nights, the hotel is always a good source, and our local guide will have a favorite or two to share with you. I always include a couple drinks for included meals.

**Tour Group 2**                      **August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**The evening events for days 1 and 2 are reversed as the Irish House Party does not operate on the 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Day 1**     Arrivals in Dublin from the USA. We'll meet up in the hotel lobby in the late afternoon for a welcome pint and an orientation to the tour. There's a special treat in store for dinner this evening as we participate in the [Irish House Party](#) for Music and food. Overnight Dublin (D)

**Day 2**     We'll start the day with a morning walking tour through the historic heart of Ireland's Capital including [Temple Bar](#) and [Trinity College](#), including a viewing of the Book of Kells. In the afternoon we journey to Saint James Gate to tour the [Guinness Storehouse](#) and enjoy a sample pint in the Gravity Bar with a 360° view of Dublin. I was recently told about a great little museum in central Dublin that I'm working on for a visit. All of our Dublin sites are a bit spread out, but we've got the coach and a local guide to help navigate.

An early dinner is on the slate, then live music in Ireland's oldest pub, the [Brazen Head](#). We're a bit outside of the central core, but will bus, uber or taxi to the center. Overnight Dublin (BD)

**Day 3**     Depart Dublin for the west coast. Stop midway across the island with a stop at the [Kilbeggan Distillery](#) to get a glimpse of how Irish Whiskey is made with a distillery tour. We'll then break for lunch at the quaint lakeside town of Athlone with time to dine, shop, or visit [Athlone Castle](#) on your own. In the afternoon we'll visit the ruined monastic site at [Clonmacnoise](#) before arriving in [Galway](#) in the late afternoon. We'll have dinner together this evening, with the possibility of traditional music to follow. Overnight Galway (BD)

**Day 4**     We'll travel about an hour to the north to the village of [Cong](#), made famous as the site of "The Quiet Man", a 1952 film featuring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. We'll enjoy a walking tour with that theme. We'll visit [Ashford Castle](#) and a stroll of the grounds before enjoying Afternoon Tea in the [Connaught Room](#), a tradition since 1868. We'll return to Galway in the early evening. Dinner is on your own this evening. Overnight Galway (BT)

**Day 5**     Our day will be spent in Inis Mór, the largest of the three islands that comprise the Aran Islands. We're taking the ferry from Rossaveel near Galway to Kilronan Village (40-minutes) and will tour the islands from there. Highlights include the dramatically perched, pre-historic fort of Dún Aengus. Return to Galway in the late afternoon. Dinner will be near the hotel this evening. Overnight Galway (BD)

**Day 6**     We're starting the day with a visit to [The Burren](#) for a walk with a naturalist to explain this unique biome of Karst Limestone. We'll break for lunch in [Doolin](#) before heading off to the magnificent [Cliffs of Moher](#) for outstanding views of the Atlantic from the cliffs. We're then off to Limerick for the next two nights. Dinner will be near the hotel this evening. Overnight Limerick (BD)

**Day 7**     We'll start with a morning walking tour of Limerick with a focus on Frank McCourt's autobiographical novel, [Angela's Ashes](#). After lunch and shopping time in the city, we'll travel to the [Bunratty Folk Park](#) for a glimpse into Irish village life in the not-too-distant past.

We'll stay in the area this afternoon to attend the [Medieval Banquet](#) at Bunratty Castle. A little touristic, yes, but a great deal of fun. Overnight Limerick (BD)

**Day 8** We'll start the day with an early departure from Limerick to Killarney and our first stop to visit one of Ireland's historic manor houses with a visit to [Muckross House](#). We'll break for lunch at the on-site café before joining our driver for a visit to [Killarney National Park](#) and the Gap of Dunloe. We'll enjoy a late afternoon visit to a local farm for a demonstration of herding skills by the farm's sheepdogs before checking into our hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening. Overnight Killarney (B)

**Day 9** Today we'll experience the [Ring of Kerry](#) with a visit to Dingle at the very tip of the ring. While there, we'll take an excursion to the [Blasket Islands](#). The Blasket Islands were populated by centuries by a close-knit group of Irish speaking inhabitants until the 1950s. We'll have time to spend in the town of [Dingle](#) as well before returning to Killarney. Dinner will be near the hotel this evening. Overnight Killarney (BD)

**Day 10** We depart County Kerry this morning as we make our way back toward Dublin. Our base for the next two nights is Kilkenny, home of the fabulous Kilkenny Cream Ale. On the way, we'll make a short detour to Blarney for an obligatory stop at [Blarney Castle](#). You'll have a chance to kiss the stone or just watch the others if you're already blessed with the "gift of gab".

We'll break for lunch when we arrive at Cashel, followed by a tour of the [Rock of Cashel](#), an ancient Royal Fortress of the Kings of Munster. We'll arrive in Kilkenny in the late afternoon. Dinner is on your own this evening. There should be a music session to be found later in the evening. Overnight Kilkenny (B)

**Day 11** We'll make a short drive to the south and the [Waterford Crystal Factory](#). After starting our morning with an hour-long walking tour of Ireland's oldest city (914 AD), we'll enjoy a Waterford factory tour and have time to shop. You'll have time for lunch and souvenir shopping in the city before we make our way back to Kilkenny.

We've got a tour scheduled at the [Smithwick's Brewery Experience](#) and a tasting immediately afterward. The Brewery itself, which dates back to 1710 was closed when Guinness bought it in the 1960s, but the history remains. We have our farewell dinner this evening, followed by local music for those with an interest. Overnight Kilkenny (BD)

**Day 12** We're on our way back to Dublin Airport (about 90 minutes) this morning. En-route, we'll make a final stop at one of the more important and intact early monastic sites in Ireland, [Glendalough](#). Our arrival at Dublin Airport at 1:00 PM is meant to coincide with the timing for the Aer Lingus nonstop at 3:00 PM back to Seattle. If your flights differ from that, we can look into an overnight in Dublin or earlier alternate transportation.

## Your Hotels

Dublin	Herbert Park Hotel	Ballsbridge Terrace, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 R2T2, Ireland
Galway	Flannerys Hotel	Old Dublin Road Galway H91KH64
Limerick	Limerick Strand Hotel	Ennis Rd, Stonetown, Limerick
Killarney	Hotel Killarney	Cork Rd, Ballycasheen, Killarney, Co. Kerry
Kilkenny	River Court Hotel	The Bridge, John Street Upper, Gardens, Kilkenny