



Ireland



Beer & Golf

Day 1: Welcome to Ireland

Arrive at Dublin Airport, meet with coach driver and guide and transfer to Dublin City Centre.

On arrival enjoy a **panoramic city tour**

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin City. Here you will discover the north and south side of the River Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, or the Custom House along the quays, as well as the Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's House can still be found (today owned by an American College), its colourful doors, along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. Not so far from St. Stephen's Green, in Kildare St., you will see the house of Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula. This part of the city is also dominated by the students of Trinity College, where the famous book of Kells is permanently exhibited in its library. The university is facing the medieval district where Dublin Castle and the two Anglican Cathedrals can be found.

Visit the **Guinness Storehouse**

The Guinness Brewery in Dublin is Europe's largest stout producing brewery and home to the Guinness Storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. Visitors will discover what goes into the making a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process,



the time, the craft and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been marketed and how it is today sold in over 150 countries. Once the tour has finished, the guest is invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy their pint of Guinness. Regular demonstrations on the art of pulling a pint of Guinness also take place in the Storehouse. Launched on the fifth floor in 2011, "Five" at Guinness Storehouse, includes a small replica authentic Irish Bar, an 18th Century inspired Brewers Dining Hall, and a restaurant named Gilroy's where guests enjoy a Guinness gastronomic experience driven entirely by the Irish tradition of wholesome local produce. Menus include local foods such as Ardsallagh goat's cheese, Irish mussels from Carlingford and the Waterford Blaas bread supplied by MD Bakery in Waterford. This area will host from time to time live cooking demonstrations using Guinness in the recipe and it includes an interactive recipe sharing bank that allows visitors to take Guinness recipe cards home.

Check in to your hotel. Tonight a welcome dinner at your hotel. Overnight and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area



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Day 2: Portmarnock or Malahide

This morning transfer to the North Coast of Dublin

Golfers:

Enjoy a round of Golf at **Portmarnock Golf Club**

The Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links is set in splendid surroundings overlooking the beach. The house was originally owned by the Jameson family, famous for their Irish whiskey. Their home has been tastefully converted to an international hotel with the grounds now hosting a magnificent 18 hole Bernhard Langer-designed golf links. Portmarnock is ranked amongst the top golf courses in the world, with a rich history closely aligned to the progression of golf in Ireland. The Club features two courses: Championship Course (18 holes) and Yellow Course (9 holes). The practice facilities at Portmarnock Golf Club are set to a championship standard. The facilities include a driving range and short game area. There is also a putting and chipping green adjacent to the clubhouse.



Non-golfers:



OPTIONAL: Spend time in the seaside town of Malahide and visit **Malahide Castle**. Malahide Castle is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles. The 100-hectare estate was founded in the 12th century by the Anglo-Norman Talbot family and was occupied by this family until 1976. The castle contains much of its original 16th Century furnishings, a minstrel's gallery and a unique collection of Irish historical portraits. The guided tour of the castle is recommended. Audio Guides are available to take guests through the castle and recount many of the interesting tales associated with it.

Lunch in Malahide at a local café / restaurant

OPTIONAL: Visit **Butlers Chocolate Experience**

Butlers Chocolate Experience is located at the Butlers Chocolate factory in north Dublin, close to the junction of the M1 and M50 motorways. There are three elements to the interactive tour, which lasts 90 minutes in total. There is a 15 minute introductory video, followed by a guided tour of the factory area from a glass viewing area, which takes visitors to nine key viewing / talking points. Each viewing point is supplemented by a video. In the Experience Room, visitors enter a mini-factory area, where they put on factory hats and coats and get to see up close demonstrations of some key elements of chocolate production. There are work stations set up where guests get an opportunity to be a chocolatier and decorate their own novelty to bring home. At all stages of the tour, there is lots of chocolate sampling! If guests do not wish to take the full Experience, it is possible to do the guided tour and hot beverage option, or the guided tour only. The Butlers Chocolate Cafe on-site allows guests the possibility to enjoy a hot beverage and sandwich or pastry.

This evening enjoy **dinner and entertainment at the Merry Ploughboy** Pub or similar

The Merry Ploughboys live in concert is widely regarded as the best traditional music show in Dublin and also as a must see for any visitors to Dublin city. The show is a highly entertaining performance of live traditional Irish music, song and Irish dancing. From start to finish, this is a show based on fantastic interaction between the performers and the audience.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area

Day 3: Dublin to the North Antrim Coast

This morning depart Dublin and journey to the North Antrim Coast.

En-route visit **Monasterboice**

In the 5th century, St. Buite founded a monastic community near Drogheda in County Louth and today, it is home to an impressive collection of ruins. On the site, visitors can discover an old graveyard, two churches and a sundial. Monasterboice is most famous for its spectacular high crosses, especially the cross of Muineadach an outstanding example of high crosses of the early Christian period, noted as being the tallest in Ireland. The crosses stand in the shadow of a magnificent round tower, about 300 metres high. Monasterboice was a thriving centre of religion and learning until 1142, when the Cistercians arrived at the nearby Mellifont Abbey.





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Continue and visit the **Giant’s Causeway**

Encounter Northern Ireland’s favourite giant Finn McCool at the new Giants Causeway Visitor centre on the North Antrim coast which opened in the summer of 2012. According to legend Finn McCool created the Giants Causeway by building stepping stones to Scotland to challenge the Scottish giant Benandonner! The new Visitor centre explores the major themes of mythology, geology, landscape, ecology, culture and social history based on the UNESCO World Heritage site that consists of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. There are various interactive exhibits and short video presentations within five designated interpretive exhibition areas and the self-guided visit will culminate with a spectacular two minutes audio-visual projection of a volcanic eruption flowing over the walls and onto the floor. Other services and facilities include a large craft and souvenir shop, Tourist Information and restaurant. To enhance the wider visitor experience around the site, a hand held audio guide is available in a range of languages which will bring the wider World Heritage Site to life and inform visitors of unique features to look out for across this amazing landscape. Guided tours of the site are also available. The walks and trails around the World Heritage Site have been upgraded, with the addition of a new accessible cliff top walk for families and people with disabilities. In 2015, Conde Nast Traveler magazine included hopping the stones of the Giant’s Causeway as one of the '50 things to do in Europe before you die'.



Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel on the North Antrim Coast or area

Day 4: Castle Rock or Derry

Golfers opt 1:



Enjoy a round of Golf at **Castle Rock Golf Club**

Castlerock Golf Club, is a classic links course set amid towering dunes. Situated on the Causeway coast and only a 20 minute drive from both Royal Portrush Golf Club and Portstewart Golf Club, Castlerock is a more than worthy neighbour to both of these great Irish links.

Golfers opt 2:

Enjoy a round of golf at **Ballycastle Golf Club**

The course is a unique golfing challenge in that it covers both parkland and links holes. The first five holes are parkland in nature, flanked by the Rivers Margy and Carey with various trees and natural hills as the main landscape. The 12th century Bon-a-Margy abbey ruins provides an historical out of bounds. From hole six onwards you are presented with some outstanding links golf holes running alongside the strand and between gorse and sand dunes encompassing impressive views of the famous North Antrim Coastline, Scotland and the hills of Donegal.



Non-golfers:

Enjoy a **walking tour of Derry City Walls**

Discover the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland. These famous walls which date back to the early part of the seventeenth century have been a place of several sieges. There are fine views from the top of the walls, which encircle the old city, a circuit of one mile. By walking on Derry’s Walls, you have splendid views of cathedrals and churches, you will learn about the historical events that shaped the city and explore attractions such as The Bogside, The People’s Gallery: The Murals, The Diamond, the Tower Museum and the Guildhall. Enjoy free time in Derry.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel on the North Antrim Coast or area

Day 5: North Antrim Coast to County Down

This morning depart the North Antrim Coast and journey to County Down.

En-route enjoy a **panoramic tour of Belfast**



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A guided city tour is an excellent way to discover Belfast City. The tour will take in the leaning Albert Memorial Clock tower (Ireland's answer to the Tower of Pisa) and the Opera House, which is one of Belfast's great landmarks. Your tour will pass by the City Hall, the Opera house, The Crown Bar (dates from 1885), Queens University and the Botanic Gardens. Some tours will take in a visit to the Harland and Wolfe Shipyard, where the Titanic was built and launched in 1912. A visit to the Shankill and Falls road will be of interest as it will give the visitor an indication of how life was in Belfast during the troubles.

Visit **Titanic Belfast**



Located in the heart of Belfast, the Titanic Belfast recreates the story of the world's most famous ship in an iconic, six floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship's construction. Opened in April 2012 to coincide with the centenary of its launch, the self-guided journey begins on entering the building's giant atrium, where the visitor is surrounded by the four 'ship's hull' shaped wings which house the Titanic Experience. As you journey through the nine large galleries of the interactive exhibition, you will uncover the true story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900's, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and subsequent place in history. Continue to County Down.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in County Down or area

Day 6: **Royal County Down or Breadmaking**

Golfers:

Enjoy a round of golf at **Royal County Down Golf Club**

Royal County Down is located in one of the world's most naturally beautiful links settings in the Murlough Nature Reserve. Against the magnificent backdrop of the Mountains of Mourne, the links stretches along the shores of Dundrum Bay, zigzagging back and forth to provide a different vista from virtually every hole. The narrowest ribbons of fairways thread their way through as impressive a set of sand dunes as could be imagined. The fairways are surrounded by purple heather and golden gorse, so beautiful to look at but so punishing for any who may stray from the prescribed path. The 'bearded' bunkers are world famous and feature overhanging lips of marram, red fescue and heather. The greens are fast and many are domed, rejecting any shot lacking conviction. This is a true test of any player's command of the traditional bump and run, the preferred way to play any links. The ninth hole is one of the most photographed holes in world golf.



Non-golfers:

Enjoy a **hands on breadmaking session in a local home** in County Down

Upon arrival you will be offered a warm Irish welcome and a cup of coffee or tea and some homemade sweet treats. The session starts with a traditional Irish Fruit Soda Cake. This is a sweet treat and delicious with lots of homemade Irish butter. While the Fruit Soda Cake is baking in the stove oven, you will make some potato bread or fadge as its known in these parts and Soda Bread. You will take home a bag filled with your handmade products and all of the recipes that we made here in a traditional Northern Irish house.

After today's activities depart County Down and journey to Dublin.

Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area

Day 7: **Farewell**

Transfer to Dublin Airport for your journey home.

