

Ireland



Golfing at its best

Day 1: Welcome to Ireland

Arrive at Shannon Airport, meet with coach driver and guide and transfer to Cork.

Enjoy a **panoramic city tour of Cork**

Spend time at leisure in Cork and then check in to your hotel

Tonight a welcome dinner at your hotel

Overnight & breakfast at your hotel in Cork or area

Day 2: Fota Island or Cobh

Golfers:

Enjoy a round of golf at **Fota Island Golf Club**

Fota Island Golf Club is just a few minutes drive from Cork City's international airport and passenger ferry terminal. Located in the heart of a 780 acre estate which is included in "The Inventory of Outstanding Landscapes in Ireland". The splendid woodlands are woven into three challenging championship courses which are very much in the traditional mode, featuring strategically placed bunkers and undulating putting surfaces.

Non-golfers:

OPTIONAL: Visit Cobh Heritage Centre

A unique Irish port town, Cobh is situated on the southern shore of the Great Island in one of the world's finest natural harbours. Between 1848 and 1950, over 6 million adults and children emigrated from Ireland including over 2.5 million from Cobh, making it the single most important port of emigration in the country. The Heritage Centre is located in the old Victorian Railway station in Cobh formally known as Queenstown. The Centre hosts a multi-media exhibition of the Origins, History and Legacy of Cobh. The Queenstown Story relates Cobh's dramatic maritime history including how it was the last port of call for the ill





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-fated Titanic. The steamers and ocean liners continued carrying the Irish to new lives and new lands for many years afterwards. New permanent exhibitions opened in 2011 include the Building of the Titanic, the White Star Line Collection and Female Convict Transportation. Cobh Heritage Centre now offers a genealogy service, where the staff can assist you in tracing your Irish Ancestors.

Spend free time in Cobh.

All pax then visit **Jameson Distillery Midleton**

Whiskey has been distilled in the town of Midleton, County Cork since the early 9th Century. The Jameson Distillery Midleton was founded by the Murphy brothers in 1825. The 45 minute guided tour of the distillery commences with a short audio-visual, after which visitors are taken on a tour of the old distillery by local guides. Follow the old distillery trail through mills, maltings, stillhouse, warehouses and kilns and view the largest pot still in the world - some of these buildings date back to 1795. The tour ends in the Distillery pub, where all are invited to enjoy a glass of Irish Whiskey. During the visit a number of volunteers are selected to take part in a tasting session to compare a Jameson whiskey with a Scottish Whisky and American bourbon. Participants will receive a diploma for their achievement! It is possible for the whole group to participate in the whiskey comparison tasting. The visitor attraction has a Malt House Restaurant and a shop where guests can buy a range of whiskeys and souvenirs. Dinner at a local restaurant in Kinsale – Ireland's gourmet capital

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

Day 3: Ring of Kerry



This morning depart Cork and enjoy a day on the **Ring of Kerry**

The Ring of Kerry (166km) is the most famous and panoramic route in Ireland. The astonishing beauty of this large peninsula, Iveragh, comes from the great diversity of its scenery, which offers incessant contrasts. En route around the Ring, take in spectacular scenery - mountains, peat bogs, lakes and magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean as one travels along the coast road. Leaving Killarney pass through Killorglin, famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula and Dingle Bay. Continuing to Cahirciveen, you'll pass the birthplace of our National hero, Daniel O'Connell. Next, continue on through peat bogs to the town of Waterville. Continue to Sneem Village, famous for its brightly coloured houses. The road then continues through the mountains to Molls Gap and Ladies View with

superb views of the famous Lakes of Killarney. Molls' Gap is a spectacular photographic viewing point on the famous Ring of Kerry Tour. The visitor is presented with a magnificent view of Black Valley. Close by is the famous Ladies View viewing point with gives a different perspective of this magnificent countryside, with the 3 Lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains. Ladies View received its name from Queen Victoria, who was so impressed with the view that she insisted that her ladies-in-waiting should also visit here.

Visit **Muckross House and Gardens**

Muckross House is a magnificent Victorian mansion built in 1843 and is one of Ireland's leading stately homes. Built on the shores of Muckross Lake, it is beautifully situated amidst the spectacular scenery of Killarney National Park. The elegantly furnished rooms portray the lifestyle of the landed gentry, while downstairs in the basement area one can experience the working conditions of the servants employed in the house. The gardens of Muckross House are famed for their beauty worldwide. In particular they are noted for their collections of azaleas and rhododendrons. However the extensive water garden, the children's sunken garden and the outstanding rock garden, hewn out of natural limestone, are just some of the features to be discovered.



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Day 4: Waterville or the Skelligs

Golfers:

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

Over 100 years old, Waterville is rated among the top 5 golf courses in Ireland and the top 20 links courses in the world. Links golf combines sand dunes, gorse and native grasses, firm fairways, sod faced bunkers and subtle putting surfaces all intertwined by the ever changing weather.

Non-golfers:

OPTIONAL: Visit the **Skellig Experience Centre**

The Skellig Experience is a heritage centre dedicated to life on the Skellig islands and was developed by Cork Kerry Tourism in 1992 to make the four treasures of the off shore Skellig Islands more easily understood by all. The Skellig Islands are found 12km off the coast of Kerry. The larger island, Skellig Michael, an UNESCO World Heritage site, was a monastic site occupied from the 6th until the 12th century. The second Island is renowned as a bird sanctuary and houses a colony of 20,000 pairs of breeding gannets, the second largest breeding colony in the world. The exhibition building is a purpose built visitor centre designed to be rugged in feeling and finishes, to reflect the experience which will be undertaken by visitors. The use of concrete vaults with grass topping is designed to echo the wild quality of the south west of Ireland and to blend in with the surrounding hills.

OPTIONAL: Enjoy a **boat tour around the Skelligs**



****This service runs April – October only. Weather permitting. Does not stop on the island.***

This evening enjoy **dinner and entertainment at the Jarvey's Rest**

You open the door and feel the heat of the welcoming fire. You hear the rousing sounds of instruments and talented musicians. You smell the freshly prepared traditional dishes. A Jarvey's Irish Night Show is one to remember! Set in an authentic pub venue with a capacity of 250 guests, there is history and folklore all around. The Irish Night Show is a genuine Irish pub experience with great food and entertainment. The evening

consists of an authentic 3 course dinner using the best ingredients from the Kerry area. Our entertainers are all local and highly skilled. The mixture of traditional tunes, rousing ballads and Irish music performed by Onora creates a magical atmosphere. Added to this is The Torc Irish Dancers, award winning dancers performing jigs, reels and heart pounding Irish dances. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Killarney or area

Day 5: Killarney to County Clare

This morning depart Killarney and journey to County Clare. En-route journey through the **picturesque village of Adare**

Visit the **Hunt Museum**

The Hunt Museum exhibits one of Ireland's greatest private collections of art and antiquities, dating from the Neolithic to the 20th Century, including works by Renoir, Picasso and Yeats, collected by John and Gertrude Hunt during their lives. At present, The Hunt Museum develops and provides many activities, such as tours around the museum, arts and crafts classes, kids activities, camps and lectures. Many of the rooms in the museum provide great opportunities for different events, such as meetings, lectures, seminars, receptions and dining.



Ireland

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Then visit **Bunratty Castle and Folk Park**



Bunratty Castle, was built in the 15th century by the Earl of Thomond and stands on the banks of the Rathy River. For over 40 years the ladies of the Castle, aided and abetted by the Earl's Butler, have welcomed guests from all over the world to join them at The Earl's Banquet. The evening begins with a mead reception in the Great Hall of the castle, then downstairs to enjoy a four course meal with red & white wine. This is followed by entertainment by the world renowned Bunratty Castle Entertainers accompanied by harp and violin. The banquet is held twice nightly during the high season.

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

Day 6: Lahinch or the Aran Islands

Golfers:

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

At Lahinch Golf Club, golfers visiting County Clare in the west of Ireland can test themselves on windswept dunes on a championship links course, defying water traps and other dangers on a new course created by some of the most famous course designers in the world or simply play a relaxing 18 holes on a course with tree-lined fairways. Lahinch Championship Golf Course is one of the great classic links courses in the world and it hosts the South of Ireland Amateur Championship every year. The Castle Course presents a test with cleverly positioned bunkers and water hazards that make for an unforgettable experience. Doonbeg Golf Course is a marvellous course that runs along 1.5 miles of beach and dunes. The ocean is visible from the greens and fairways of the 16th and 18th holes.



Non-golfers:

OPTIONAL: Take a ferry to Inishmor – the largest of the **Aran Islands**

OPTIONAL: Enjoy a **minibus tour around the island**

Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands, it is made up of 14 tiny villages. A ferry-boat is taken from Connemara. A 2,5 hour minibus tour starts the excursion, followed by a walk to Dun Aengus. Afterwards return to the village for lunch on your own. You will return in the late afternoon to Rossaveal and the mainland, which allows free time for exploring the island before departure.

OPTIONAL: Enjoy a visit to **Dun Aengus**

Perched spectacularly on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic ocean, this is the largest of the prehistoric stone forts of the Aran Islands. It is enclosed by three massive dry-stone walls and a "chevaux-de-frise" consisting of tall blocks of limestone set vertical-



ly into the ground to deter attackers. The fort is about 900m from the Visitor Centre and is approached over rising ground. There is access for visitors with disabilities to the Visitor Centre but the route to the fort is over rough terrain in parts that is not suitable for wheelchairs. The small visitor centre contains some displays on the history and geology of the area.



This evening enjoy a **medieval banquet and entertainment at Bunratty Castle** or similar. Bunratty Castle is one of the most complete and authentic medieval castles in Ireland. Built in 1425 and plundered on many occasions, it was authentically restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendour and now contains mainly 15th and 16th century

Ireland

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furnishings and tapestries capturing the mood and the style of the times. The castle hosts evening medieval banquets and takes the participants back to the time that the castle entertained its visitors with fine food, wine and song. Within the grounds of Bunratty Castle is Bunratty Folk Park where 19th century life is vividly recreated. Set on 26 acres, the impressive park features over 30 buildings in a 'living' village and rural setting. Meet and chat with the Bean an Ti (Woman of the House) and various street characters including the Policeman and Schoolteacher. Enjoy the tastes, scents, sights and sounds of this enchanting place as you stroll from house to house or around the charming village complete with school, post office, doctors house, hardware shop, printers and of course the pub!

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

Day 7: Farewell

Transfer to Shannon Airport for your journey home.

