

# Jewels of Ireland

Starting at **C\$4,670**\*

## **Explore hidden gems on the Emerald Isle**

Enjoy the splendor of every corner on this leisurely Ireland tour of the essential—and the unexpected.





#### Trip Highlights:

- Belleek Pottery
- Kylemore Abbey
- Giant's Causeway
- Blasket Centre
- Cliffs of MoherDonegal Castle
- Slieve League Cliffs
- Taylors Three Rock Pub

#### Hotels:

- The Gibson Hotel
- Kinsale Hotel & Spa
- Dingle Skellig Hotel
- Treacy's Oakwood Hotel
- Galway Bay Hotel
- Mill Park Hotel
- Maldron Hotel Belfast City
- Knightsbrook Hotel & Golf Resort
- The Croke Park Hotel

## 2023 Jewels of Ireland - 15 Days/14 Nights

## **Trip Itinerary**

#### Day 1 Dublin City Tour | Dublin Castle

Your tour departs at 2:00 PM from your Dublin hotel. Experience a panoramic tour of the city, then visit Dublin Castle for a guided tour. Learn how the castle was the seat of power in Ireland for many centuries, and see the State Apartments, used today for official ceremonies and presidential inaugurations. Enjoy a welcome drink with your group before enjoying an evening free to dine as you wish.

#### Day 3 Blarney Castle | Kinsale Walking Tour

Travel to Blarney Castle; climb the winding staircase to kiss its famous stone or enjoy the gardens. Go to Kinsale, a picturesque old fishing town now known for art galleries and gourmet food. Join a local guide for a fascinating walk around its historic streets, once besieged by the Spanish Armada, before dinner in your hotel. (B, D)

## Day 5 Slea Head Loop | Blasket Centre | Murphy's Ice Cream | Dingle

Set out on the Slea Head Loop, one of Ireland's most beautiful drives, through scenic ocean and mountain vistas. Visit the Blasket Centre in Dunquin to learn about the Blasket Islands, visible off the coast. Abandoned in 1954, they were once a lively outpost of traditional culture and language. Return to Dingle and visit Murphy's Ice Cream; taste their distinctive flavors like Irish Orange Marmalade, Brown Bread, and Dingle Gin. Take the rest of the day to wander and dine as you wish in this quaint seaside village. (B)

#### Day 7 Sheepdog Demonstration | Galway

Travel through the rounded limestone hills of the Burren to Caherconnell and watch skilled dogs round up sheep. Stop in a charming Burren village to explore independently. Head to lively Galway for a walking tour with a local guide - check out the medieval history evident in the city walls, the narrow streetscape, and Lynch's Castle. Take time to explore the charming shops and perhaps listen to some street musicians before dinner in your hotel. (B,D)

#### Day 9 Belleek Pottery | Donegal Castle

Travel north through County Mayo. Stop in County Fermanagh and visit Belleek Pottery to see craftspeople create their renowned fine china. Visit Donegal Castle, built by the O'Donnell chieftains in the 15th century and restored in the 1990s after falling into ruin for centuries. Enjoy free time in Donegal town before dinner in your hotel this evening. (B,D)

#### Day 11 Derry Walk | Giant's Causeway

Meet with a local guide for a walking tour to see Derry's medieval walls, the Diamond, and St. Columb's Cathedral. Explore the Giant's Causeway, enormous hexagonal columns formed over 60 million years ago. Travel along the scenic Nine Glens of Antrim before heading to Belfast. (B,D)

## Day 2 Dublin Hop-On, Hop-Off Bus Tour | Taylors Three Rock

Tour Dublin independently, on a Hop-On, Hop-Off bus tour. Plus choose a visit to one of Dublin's top attractions - Guinness Storehouse, Teeling Distillery, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, or GPO Museum. Join your group in the evening for a dinner of Irish specialties and a lively show at Taylors Three Rock Pub. (B,D)

#### Day 4 Killarney | Dingle

Head west to Killarney and take some free time to discover this bustling, friendly town. Next, visit Moriarty's in the Gap of Dunloe, a CIE Tours preferred shopping partner. Continue on to Dingle, where you will dine in your hotel. (B,D)

#### Day 6 Cliffs of Moher | Medieval Castle Banquet

Visit the Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum, which recalls air travel in the 1930s and 1940s. Drive to the magnificent Cliffs of Moher, soaring 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. In the evening, head to a castle for a medieval-style banquet with traditional songs and stories. (B, D)

#### Day 8 Killary Harbour Catamaran Cruise | Kylemore Abbey

Drive through Connemara to Leenane for a catamaran cruise (seasonal) of Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fjord. Travel on to see Kylemore Abbey, a beautiful castle in a lakeside setting. Enjoy an evening free to explore vibrant, artistic Galway city. (B)

#### Day 10 Slieve League Cliffs | Triona Design Demonstration

Enjoy a coastal drive to view Slieve League, Europe's highest sea cliffs. Continue on to our CIE Tours preferred shopping partner, Triona Design Donegal Tweed Centre in Ardara; see demonstrations of spinning, weaving and knitting. Enjoy some free time to explore before returning to the hotel for dinner. (B.D.)

#### Day 12 Titanic Belfast | Long Meadow Cider

Tour Belfast, seeing its grand Victorian buildings and discovering its rich maritime history. Visit Titanic Belfast to explore the story of the doomed ocean liner, built in the local shipyards in 1912. Head to Long Meadow Cider, an award-winning family business, for a tour, tasting, and picnic lunch. Continue on to Dublin where you'll relax over dinner with your group in your hotel. (B,L,D)

#### Day 13 Croke Park | Dublin

Head to Dublin, where you'll visit Croke Park, the legendary stadium where All-Ireland Football and Hurling Championships are played. Visit the GAA Museum and learn about the Gaelic Athletic Association's fascinating role in cultural, social, and sporting heritage. Take the Skyline Tour, ascending to the stadium's rooftop 44 meters above the city for amazing views of Dublin. The rest of your day is free to explore the city and dine independently. (B)

### Day 15 Tour Ends in Dublin

Your tour ends after breakfast. (B) B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner>

#### Day 14 Independent Dublin Sightseeing

Explore Dublin independently. Guests who have not used their vouchers on Day 2 may use them today to do the Hop-On, Hop-Off bus tour and choice of attractions. Otherwise, this vibrant city is yours to discover as you like. In the evening, dine independently at your choice of one of the many restaurants or pubs that Dublin has to offer. (B)



Please see www.cietours.com for the most up-to-date itinerary and pricing