



Escapades & Shenanigans Tour to Ireland

hosted by Liza Betz from Failte Irish Imports

September 24th to October 5th 2023

\$4899 per person sharing (includes airfare) \$899 single supplement

ITINERARY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24th US to Dublin

Depart Lexington on Delta flight 1753 at 5:40pm for Atlanta and arrive 7:10pm. Transfer to Delta flight 176 departing 9:15pm for Dublin

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25th – DUBLIN ARRIVALS & KELLS

After landing at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. The group will meet at Dublin Airport at 10 AM where you will be welcomed by your Caddie Tours driver/guide will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. We'll drive north to Kells to have breakfast and overnight at the Headford Arms Hotel. In the afternoon we will gather at **Kells Courthouse** for a welcome and short introduction to the medieval heritage town of Kells. In the **9th century**, Kells was known as Áiníus Érenn, the splendour of Ireland. The town will be forever associated the Book of Kells, that originated there over 1,200 years ago. See the remains of the monastic settlement of St Columba, **the Round Tower**, **High Crosses** and early Irish church. Join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner tonight at the hotel.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: HEADFORD ARMS HOTEL (B,D)

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26th – NEWGRANGE & ULSTER AMERICAN FOLK PARK

After enjoying a tasty Irish Breakfast, we will travel east to visit the historic **Newgrange**, a 5,200-year-old passage tomb located in the Boyne Valley in Ireland's Ancient East. Newgrange was built by Stone Age farmers, the mound is 279 feet in diameter and 43 feet high which is an area of about 1 acre. We'll explore the inside of the passage of the tomb that measures 62 feet and leads into a chamber with 3 alcoves. The passage and chamber are aligned with the rising sun on the mornings around the Winter Solstice. Newgrange is surrounded by 97 large stones called kerbstones some of which are engraved with megalithic art and the most striking is the entrance stone. We'll stop for lunch on your own at **Brambles Cafe** located in the Bru Na Boinne Visitors Centre. Continue North to Omagh to visit **The Ulster American Folk Park**. This is an open-air museum which tells the story of three centuries of Irish emigration to America with an emphasis on those leaving the northern province of Ulster. Walk in the footsteps of the bold migrants who set sail for the New World in the 18th and 19th centuries. Wander the well-trodden pathways of rural Ulster at your leisure, complete with a bustling street and welcoming farmhouses, before boarding the Brig Union ship and emerging in the New World to marvel at life on the American Frontier. Learn about people's daily routines and activities in both the Old and New Worlds and discover historic buildings, including the famous Mellon Homestead, as well as buildings from America, which have been relocated to the museum. We travel west to our hotel, **Harvey's Point**, located right on the shores of beautiful Lough Eske. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: HARVEY'S POINT, DONEGAL (B & D)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27th – SLIEVE LEAGUE & DONEGAL TOWN

Following breakfast, we drive through the fishing village of Killybegs and Teelin and travel to The Slieve League Sea Cliffs, one of Ireland's best-kept secrets and a signature point of interest along the Wild Atlantic Way. Take in the astounding panoramic views of Slieve League swooping down from the mountain with a staggering 2000 feet drop into the swirling Atlantic Ocean below with amazing vistas. This stunning sight is three times higher than the Cliffs of Moher! We'll travel through gorgeous Glencolmille onto the town of Ardara for lunch and a visit to the Donegal Tweed Center where we'll watch the fine art of hand weaving tweed at the loom woven with the same traditional skills that have been used for centuries. We then cross the Glengesh Pass stopping in Donegal Town for a stroll through the town before group dinner in the hotel tonight.



DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: HARVEY'S POINT DONEGAL (B,D)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28th – GLENCAR WATERFALL & SHED DISTILLERY

After breakfast, we depart heading south for the Glencar Waterfall. Glencar Waterfall is famous for being an inspiration to Ireland's greatest poet William Butler Yeats and features in his poem 'The Stolen Child'. The waterfall reaches 50ft high and is situated at Glencar Lough. Continue south through Co. Leitrim to the **home of Drumshanbo Gunpowder Irish Gin, Drumshanbo Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey** and other remarkable creations from the curious mind of PJ Rigney. A fully-guided experience including an expert tasting their Single Pot Whiskey and finishing off with a refreshing Gunpowder Gin and tonic at the Honey Badger Bar in the majestic botanical glasshouse. We will have lunch here also before we continue our way south to Athlone for our two night stay at the **Sheraton Athlone**. Relax and explore the grounds before we meet for dinner in the hotel.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE SHERATON HOTEL ATHLONE (B,L,D)

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29th – ATHLONE CASTLE & SEAN'S BAR

After breakfast we will visit **Athlone Castle**, a short stroll from our hotel. The group will receive a guided tour of Athlone Castle Visitor Centre including the castle keep and castle grounds, tour of the exhibitions and artefacts on display. Our guides will encourage your group to engage with the spaces, dress up and ensure they experience all the exhibitions while providing stories about the history of the town, castle and people of Athlone. After lunch we visit **Sean's Bar** situated across the street from the Castle. Sean's Bar plays host to visitors from all around the world. Whether absorbing the history, listening to music, visiting with friends and family or simply enjoying the perfect pint, the appeal is equally strong for everyone. Listed by Lonely Planet in both "25 of the Most Incredible Bars in the World" and "50 Bars to Blow Your Mind". Explore the one of the restaurants or pubs in town for dinner and lively music session.

OVERNIGHT: THE SHERATON HOTEL ATHLONE (B)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30th – BIRR CASTLE & DINGLE FOOD FESTIVAL

After breakfast we visit the award-winning gardens of **Birr Castle Gardens and Science Centre** in Offaly and the Science Centre are both rich in amazing feats of science and engineering as well as rare trees and flowers, wonderful wildlife, and walks along peaceful rivers and the lake, which celebrates early Irish achievements in astronomy, photography, botany and engineering, see the Great Telescope, once the largest in the world. The Parsons family invite you to explore one of the most extraordinary places in Ireland. Created over generations it is an environmental and scientific time capsule. We'll have lunch at the **White House in Roscrea** with a visit to the castle next door. We will continue south and check in to the **Dingle Skellig Hotel** for the weekend to attend the **Dingle Food Festival**, known among the locals as the best weekend of the year. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the hotel.



DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL (B,L,D)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1st - EXPLORE THE DINGLE PENINSULA

After breakfast we will meet a local sheep farmer at Sleah Head and experience a demonstration of sheepdog skills. The skill has been handed down from generation to generation as sheep have been kept on the Mount Eagle for centuries. Take in fantastic views of the Ring of Kerry, Dingle Bay and the Skellig Islands. Return to Dingle to join the Dingle Food activities. Enjoy the **Dingle Food Feteive Taste Trail** - using your book of tickets to visit a selection of over 70 venues offering tastings of the best food and drink Dingle has to offer. Explore the one of the restaurants or pubs in town for dinner and lively music session.

OVERNIGHT: THE DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL (B)

MONDAY OCTOBER 2nd- INCH STRAND & GOUGANE BARRA

After breakfast we depart for Cork, further exploring the Dingle Peninsula on the way, stopping in Annascaul at the **South Pole Inn**, the historic pub once owned by Antarctic hero, Tom Crean and for a walk on beautiful **Inch Beach**, famous as the location for the David Lean classic movie **Ryan's Daughter**. Continue to visit **Gougane Barra**, one of the most naturally spectacular unspoiled landscapes in Ireland, surrounded by mountains, a lake and the country's first national park. It is the location of a famous holy island in the middle of this lake, that is linked by a causeway to the mainland. Since the 6th Century this island has been associated with the patron saint of Cork, St. Finbarr, and contains numerous religious buildings dating from the 17th to 20th centuries. The scenery in this area is breath taking and it offers the visitor a little time out in this peaceful valley. Arrive in Cork and check into the **River Lee Hotel for 2 nights**. **Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the hotel.**

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT: THE RIVER LEE HOTEL (B,D)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 3rd – EXPLORE CORK CITY

After breakfast enjoy the city at your leisure. Ireland's fun-loving, independent-minded city is known to locals, only half-jokingly, as 'the real capital'. It's a nice stroll along the Western Road to Patrick Street. Built on a series of islands this ancient merchant city is steeped in maritime history and a rich artistic culture. With a thriving food scene, the country's friendliest pubs and an artisan coffee bar on every corner, Cork is the best place in the world to relax, unwind and soak up the atmosphere. Visit the iconic **Old English Market** in the city centre, trading since 1788 this is one of the oldest covered markets in Europe. It attracts thousands of visitors each year, including Heads of State, Queen Elizabeth II made an historic visit in 2011. Fresh, local and innovative food produce as well as international delights are strongly represented at the market stalls. Many stalls have been operated by generations of the same family. We are offering an optional tour to Ballymaloe Cookery School so contact Caddie Tours for more details. Explore the one of the restaurants or pubs in town for dinner and lively music session.

OVERNIGHT: THE RIVER LEE HOTEL (B)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4th – ROCK OF CASHEL & IRISH NATIONAL STUD

After breakfast we drive north to visit the **Rock of Cashel**, A spectacular group of Medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale its 12th century round tower, High Cross and Romanesque Chapel, 13th century Gothic cathedral, 15th century Castle are full of fascinating history. After lunch on your own, we will continue to the **Irish National Stud & Gardens**— a 1,000-acre holding owned by the Irish government — where some of Ireland's best racehorses are bred and cared for. The site is also home to what is often considered to be the finest Japanese Gardens in Europe. Arrive in Malahide and check into the The Grand Hotel for our final night. We will have our Farewell Dinner at the Scotch Bonnet in the village, a 8 minute walk from the hotel and possibly a nightcap at Gibney's before we retire for the night.

OVERNIGHT: THE GRAND HOTEL MALAHIDE (B,D)



THURSDAY OCTOBER 5th – SAFE TRAVELS HOME

Sadly, our adventures are over and we're very sorry to see you go!! Our coach driver will get you to Dublin Airport in plenty of time for you to check in for your Delta flight 177 to Atlanta departing at Noon, clearing customs and immigration facilities avoiding the long lines that you can meet you in America so arrive in Atlanta as a domestic flight and transfer to Delta flight 2269 departing at 5.50pm for Lexington and arrive 7pm local time. You will have ample time for duty-free shopping available at the airport for any last-minute gifts or mementos. Thank you for trusting us once again with your vacation and we certainly hope you had a great time.