



Presents

*Ireland North & Northwest
- 7 day Driving Tour of Ireland*

Booking Reference: 11129



Your Itinerary in Detail

Day 1: Welcome to Dublin, Céad Míle Fáilte.

Arrive at Dublin airport, safe in the knowledge that your friendly driver-guide will be waiting to greet you. Sit back in your luxury vehicle and know everything is taken care of.

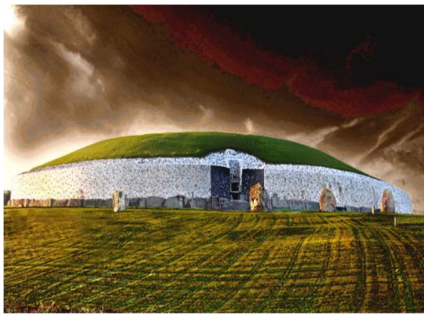
Depending on the time of your flight, we'll suggest a visit to Brú na Bóinne (Boyne valley tombs). A UNESCO World Heritage Site on the banks of the River Boyne, it preserves over 90 Neolithic monuments – and the largest collection of megalithic art in Western Europe. The 4,500-year-old tombs are the perfect starting point to our remarkable history.

A short drive brings you to Dublin. If desired, your driver-guide will provide a brief orientation tour of the city, ahead of taking you to your luxury hotel.

You'll relish two nights at The Shelbourne Hotel, a Renaissance Hotel, this property boasts a picture-perfect location overlooking St. Stephen's Green, just moments from some of Dublin's most famous historic landmarks, The Shelbourne Hotel Delivering 5-star excellence from a central location, it provides sumptuous facilities in a majestic, historic building. Experience award-winning dining, indulgent pampering and first-class service. Tonight, catch your breath and relax. You're about to experience Ireland at its very finest.



Bru na Boinne - Newgrange Ireland's most historical site, Newgrange is a 5,200-year-old passage tomb located in the Boyne Valley. Newgrange was built by Stone Age farmers, the mound is 85 meters in diameter and 13.5 meters high, an area of about 1 acre. A passage leads into a chamber with 3 alcoves. The passage and chamber are aligned with the rising sun at the Winter Solstice. Your visit here will include entrance to the new visitor centre where you can see a recreation of this event and try to imagine what it must have felt like when the Neolithic people of the region who built it witnessed that first sun rise.



2 nights at The Shelbourne Hotel in a Double Deluxe Room inclusive of breakfast

Day 2: Dublin City: Your walking tour and time to explore

After breakfast, you'll be met by a friendly local guide in your hotel lobby. This morning, you're off on a three-hour walking tour of Dublin (should you have any mobility needs, just let us know). Your guide is exclusively for your party and they'll focus on many key sights within the city – historical and cultural.

Dublin Castle – dating to the 13th century – is always a highlight. Used as a government centre since 1922, it's part of Dublin's distinction. Neoclassical architecture can be seen on Custom House, situated in Dublin Port since 1791. And demonstrating the culture of the capital, you must see some of the Georgian doors of Dublin whilst you're there. Such a colourful and decorative display of our character.

Trinity College Library is where your tour will end and we include entrance fees here. Set among narrow, cobbled lanes, the library is home to the Book of Kells. A world-famous and historically significant vellum book, it dates to 384AD. Intricately decorated, it contains the four Gospels in Latin.

You'll have more time to explore during the afternoon. Let us know what interests you and we'll help you plan your time. That might be St Patrick's Cathedral or perhaps Kilmainham Gaol. The Guinness Storehouse is always popular, as is The Dublin Writers Museum. Then there's the Irish Immigration Museum. Oh, and the shopping too!

Your tour includes an evening transfer to the Celtic Nights dinner and Irish dancing show. This takes place at The Arlington Hotel. It's a lively event that's not to be missed. Your driver-guide will transport you safely to and from your hotel tonight.



The Book of Kells Welcome to the Old Library and the Book of Kells - a "must see" on the itinerary of all visitors to Dublin. Located in the heart of Dublin City, a walk through the cobbled stones of Trinity College Dublin will bring visitors back to the 18th century, when the magnificent Old Library building was constructed. Inside is housed the Book of Kells - a 9th-century gospel manuscript famous throughout the world.

Celtic Nights Dinner and Show The show takes place at The Arlington Hotel located in the heart of Dublin city, next to the famous O'Connell Bridge overlooking the river Liffey. This show is choreographed for maximum audience participation and full family entertainment. It includes World Championship dancers and All-Ireland winning musicians showcasing some of Ireland's 'sean nos' (old style) Irish dance & the famous Brush Dance.



Day 3: Belfast, Titanic Birthplace and North Coast Awe

Today, you'll travel north to Belfast, in the company of your driver-guide. An incredibly proud city, you'll find a lively atmosphere and many historic landmarks. Your driver-guide will start with a social and historical tour of Belfast. This will include the political districts, where you'll see murals created by both loyalist and republican communities. Learn about both sides of this troubled and complex history. You'll have time to stop for lunch in central Belfast and soak up more of its character and culture.



Belfast's maritime heritage is clear. Birthplace of the world-famous Titanic ship, you'll go to the Titanic visitor centre. Opened in 2012, it includes nine interactive galleries, many special effects and full-scale reconstructions. Marvel at the state-of-the-art skill (at the time) of the shipyard. And yet, imagine the horror of the legendary sinking, complete with so much high-class finery.

You'll then leave Belfast and travel further north along a stunning coastal route, taking in the Glens of Antrim. It covers 80 miles of rugged cliffs and nine different glens (deep valleys), each with a distinct, historical name. You'll keep travelling though, as you're heading to the pretty village of Bushmills. You might recall a whiskey brand of the same name; Bushmills is home to the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery.

For two nights, you'll stay at the Bushmills Inn Hotel (a deluxe room awaits you). Steeped in historical charm that dates to the 1600s, this lavish boutique hotel is a one-off. With a striking coastal backdrop, it's a lovingly restored retreat that boasts individual character coupled with modern comforts.



Black Cab City Tour We include a city tour today with a local expert Black Cab driver. The tour will include the architecture and social history of Belfast, including the political districts, where you will see the murals of both the loyalist and republican communities and hear both sides of what was a complicated and difficult history.

Titanic Belfast We also include entrance to the Titanic museum for a self-guided tour detailing the entire Titanic story in chronological order. Titanic Belfast extends over nine interactive galleries, with multiple dimensions to the exhibition, drawing together special effects, dark rides, full-scale reconstructions and innovative interactive features to explore the Titanic story in a fresh and insightful way. Explore the shipyard, travel to the depths of the ocean and uncover the true legend of Titanic, in the city where it all began.



2 nights at Bushmills Inn in a Double Mill House Deluxe inclusive of breakfast

Day 4: The Giants Causeway, Coastal Sights and a Wee Dram

Just a few miles from Bushmills is an epic Irish landmark. Yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site, The Giant's Causeway is an extraordinary natural wonder. Over 40,000 hexagonal basalt pillars are stacked together in an almost manufactured way. And yet, this was the work of a volcanic eruption – 60 million years ago. That is unless you believe the mythical legend of two giants that fell out. Irish giant, Fionn mac Cumhaill and Scottish big man, Benandonner. Your driver-guide will take up the story. The visitor centre and its audio tour are very informative. You might also choose to stroll along the coastline. There are fresh vantage points to view what many consider to be the eighth wonder of the world.

After a lunch of your choosing, you'll admire more northern coastal beauty. The dramatic cliff-top ruins of Dunluce Castle are worth a visit. The earliest written record of this structure is 1513. And if you're a fan of the award-winning TV show, Game of Thrones, we'll point out many of the wild and rugged sites used for its filming. The production headquarters for Game of Thrones is Paint Hall Studios in Belfast.

A National Trust site worth experiencing today is Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge near Ballintoy. Linking the mainland to the small island of Carrickarede, you'll need a head for heights if you're to walk the 20-metre length. Sitting at 30 metres high, it's a great viewpoint.

Later in the afternoon, no visit to Bushmills would be complete without a trip to the distillery for a wee dram. You'll enjoy a VIP experience before a short walk back to your hotel. Spend the evening as you wish tonight. Of course, your driver-guide is to-hand if you need recommendations for dinner.



The Giant's Causeway We include entrances to the Giant's Causeway. Your driver/guide will tell you the legend of its formation along with another version of the story – you can decide which to believe! You can stroll along the coastline to view this remarkable landscape that has been regarded as the 8th wonder of the world.

Day 5: Discovering Derry before a World Luxury Hotel

Leaving Bushmills behind today, you'll travel along a scenic section of Wild Atlantic Way before arriving in Derry (also known as Londonderry).

Second largest in Northern Ireland, Derry is the only completely walled city in the country, complete with seven gates. History dates back 1,500 years, and whilst there's much to take in, you'll also find a vibrant and modern culture today.

Your time in Derry will include an award-winning private walking tour, established by the late Martin McCrossan. Taking in many vantage points across the city, you'll learn about its incredible history including The Bogside, The Bloody Sunday Story, and The Peoples' Gallery. Lunch will be to suit you in Derry, and you'll have some spare time to do your own exploring.

When you're ready, your driver-guide will take the wheel again, travelling into County Donegal. We call it God's County. National Geographic let it top their Cool List in 2017. With good reason. Awash with castles, rugged coastline and mountainous scenery, you'll really feel off the beaten track. Following part of The Wild Atlantic Way again, you'll be glad of your driver-guide as you're safely transported to Lough Eske Castle Hotel – your home for the next two nights.

A 5-star castle hotel in a secluded lakeside spot, just outside Donegal town, Solis Lough Eske Castle is rich in history; closely associated with the O'Donnell Clan. Lovingly restored to blend historic ancestry with modern elegance, this incredible hotel can certainly claim to be award-winning.

The only Irish hotel to achieve a World Luxury Hotel award, it's been given the "World's Best Luxury Hotel" award for FIVE consecutive years! Further recent awards include: one of Condé Nast's top three luxury hotels in Ireland; TripAdvisor Traveller's Choice Award 2014; the European "Innovation in Service" Hospitality Award 2013; highly commended for "The Best Service Award" 2013 by the Tattler Spa Awards, and Condé Nast Readers' Award 2013. We think you'll be comfortable here.



A Walking Tour of the Intact City Walls of Derry Today you will have your private walking tour of Derry City with an expert local guide. Doire, Derry, Londonderry has 1,500 years of history and culture enclosed within Ireland's only completely walled city. From the sixth-century monastic settlement to the vibrant European city of the twenty-first century, no visit to Ireland is complete without a visit to Derry.

2 nights at Lough Eske Castle in a Double Deluxe Room inclusive of breakfast

Day 6: Exploring Donegal: A True Picture of Ireland

Today is all about experiencing traditional Irish culture in this remote part of the country. Accompanied by your trusty driver-guide, you'll first travel via Killbegs – Ireland's largest fishing port. Your scenic journey continues as you wind around Donegal Bay to Kilcar, and on to Slieve League – Europe's highest sea cliffs. Almost 2,000 feet in height, these mighty cliffs tower above the swirling Atlantic Ocean. This spot can leave you lost for words – it feels like the edge of the world. And the view from such a height on a clear day is astonishing. You'll have plenty of time to take in the atmosphere on foot. From the cliffs, you're back on the road again to reach a small, unspoilt village called Glencolmcille. Cloaked in natural beauty, this is a Gaeltacht (Irish speaking area). Your driver-guide is there to help – even teaching you a few phrases, so you're ready to embrace the experience first-hand!



Next stop is the tiny town of Ardara. With more Atlantic views to drink in from Loughros Point, it's a traditional town that captures the spirit of our Irish culture.

Your afternoon can also include a hand-weaving demonstration and stopping at a real Irish pub for a pint of the black stuff. Or perhaps a dram of Bushmills is more in order? And for lunch, there's locally caught seafood to enjoy. After an exhilarating day, your driver-guide will carefully return you to Lough Eske Castle. Take the evening to relax and indulge in all the magnificent facilities.

Day 7: Donegal to Dublin via Hennigan's Heritage Farm

Today, you'll leave Donegal and head back towards Dublin. But first, your driver-guide will take you to one of the most authentic visitor sites in Ireland: Hennigan's Heritage Centre. An unassuming smallholding, Tom Hennigan will welcome you to his family's home for 150 years. County Mayo was one of the worst affected areas of famine and devastating hunger. This was less than 160 years ago. Tom and his family will give you a first-hand account of what traditional Irish life was like in this time. He'll show you the basic tools used on the land and in the home. And he'll contrast this to the workings of the big houses of Ireland – there were around 8,000 in 1850.

You'll walk around the tenants' houses and take a seat in the small, thatched 1870 farm cottage (where Tom was born and lived until 1990). This story is about as genuine as it gets. If you know of any Irish ancestors, Tom's story will no doubt strike a chord in some way. Once your visit draws to a close, your driver-guide will take you back to Dublin city. You've got a final overnight stay at The Shelbourne Hotel tonight. And it's time to bid farewell to your driver-guide. You'll be sad to say goodbye. But we'd love to see you again!

With some late afternoon and evening time to spare, pick up any last-minute gifts in Dublin and plan a grand finale dinner somewhere special. You've got a wonderful experience to reflect on, with memories to last a lifetime.

Hennigan's Heritage Centre



The Hennigan family have lived on this smallholding of land for 200 years. Starting in the traditional thatched cottage you will hear a story which represents 200 years of living history. You will be immersed in the complex history of the region and learn first-hand what life must have been like in this region through some very turbulent times. This area was mostly devastated during the great hunger 1845 - 1848 and many of the stories will detail how people survived. The collection of artefacts from the tenant farmers' homes and from the big houses serve to enhance this authentic

and emotional journey through time with a true storyteller. The tour lasts around 2 and a half hours and over the years, guests have always commented on what a highlight this experience has been for them.

Overnight at The Shelbourne Hotel in a Double Deluxe Room inclusive of breakfast

Day 8: Farewell for now - your transfer to Dublin Airport

And so, the time has come to leave Ireland. We're sad too. We love playing host and would be delighted to plan another adventure with you. Have you discovered the southern highlights yet?

To suit your flight times, we'll arrange a private transfer to the airport. It's only a short drive away. Delivering you to the door, you'll check-in safely and start your journey home. But your heart? We know you'll leave just a small part of it in beautiful Ireland. It's impossible not to connect with this warm and loving land.

Farewell for now. We'll see you soon.

WHERE YOU ARE STAYING

HOTEL SELECTIONS



[THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL](#) - DUBLIN

Experience the elegance and luxury of The Shelbourne Dublin, A Renaissance Hotel. This exceptional five-star hotel, set in a hundred-year-old majestic building, is the premier city centre hotel in Dublin.

5 STAR



[BUSHMILLS INN](#) - BUSHMILLS

Originally a Coaching Inn in the 1600s, this 4-star boutique Hotel and Restaurant is steeped in Irish history with a myriad of places to hide from the world. Step back to a time steeped in charm. From inglenook turf fires to hayloft snugs, there's something to find behind every door.

4 STAR



[LOUGH ESKE CASTLE](#) - DONEGAL TOWN

Lough Eske Castle, a five-star castle hotel located on a secluded lakeside estate just outside Donegal Town, has a rich history dating back to the 1400s.

5 STAR

What's Included?

Please see below for complete list of included services.

Accommodation is included for 7 nights at the following hotels including breakfast.

Date	Nts	City	Hotel	Accommodation
DAY 1	2	Dublin	The Shelbourne Hotel	Double Deluxe Room
DAY 3	2	Bushmills	Bushmills Inn	Double Deluxe
DAY 5	2	Donegal	Lough Eske Castle	Double Deluxe Room
DAY 7	1	Dublin	The Shelbourne Hotel	Double Deluxe Room

Transport

Date	City	Service
DAY 1	Dublin	Welcome to Dublin, Céad Míle Fáilte.
DAY 2	Dublin	Round Trip Transfer from your hotel to
		Luxury Car with Driver/Guide
DAY 3	Dublin	The Celtic Nights
		Belfast, Titanic Birthplace and North
		Coast Awe
DAY 4	Bushmills	The Giants Causeway, Coastal Sights
		and a Wee Dram
DAY 5	Belfast	Discovering Derry before a World
		Luxury Hotel
DAY 6	Donegal	Exploring Donegal
DAY 7	Donegal	Donegal to Dublin via Hennigan's
		Heritage Farm
DAY 8	Dublin	Transfer to Dublin Airport

Services

Date	Service
DAY 1	Bru na Boinne - Newgrange
DAY 2	Dublin City: Your walking tour and time to explore
DAY 2	The Book of Kells
DAY 2	Celtic Nights Dinner and Show
DAY 3	Black Cab City Tour
DAY 3	Titanic Belfast
DAY 3	The Giant's Causeway
DAY 4	Old Bushmills Distillery
DAY 5	A Walking Tour of the Intact City Walls of Derry
DAY 7	Hennigan's Heritage Centre

All communications costs, hotels taxes and fees are also included and the services of our professional travel experts on the ground are available to you 24/7 days a week throughout your trip

WHATS NOT INCLUDED:

Flights from the USA or Europe, tips to your driver/guide and guides and anything not mentioned above

BOOKING: The proposal is subject to availability. To book we require a 30% deposit which is non-refundable as required to pre-book all services. We accept payments by credit card or by bank transfer. The balance of your trip would be due by 60 days prior to travel. We suggest taking out travel insurance with your local broker or online provider.