



Katie Daly's Ireland

Private Customized Travel Experiences

*Prepared for Girlfriend's Guide
Proposed Trip to Ireland
October 2022*

DAY 1:

ARRIVE IN DUBLIN



Cead Mile Failte & welcome to Ireland.

Today you will arrive into Dublin airport where you will be met by your private driver to commence your private tour of Ireland.

Learn how to pour the perfect pint of Guinness, join the revelers in Temple Bar and follow the footsteps of literary icons in

Ireland's vibrant capital, Dublin. Unlike London or Paris, Dublin's manageable size makes it perfect for exploring in a day or two. Since Ireland gained its independence from Britain in 1922, Dubliners are fiercely proud of their rebellious history and small yet mighty city.

Check into the **Wilder Hotel** for overnight.

This afternoon visit **Guinness Storehouse**. Located in the heart of the Guinness Brewery at St James's Gate, Dublin. Housed in an old fermentation plant, now the seven-storey visitor experience tells the story of Ireland's iconic drink and brings to life the heritage of Guinness from early days to growth as a global brand, known all around the world. The experience starts standing at the bottom of the world's largest pint glass, which rises through the building. It's a dramatic story that begins over 250 years ago and ends in Gravity Bar where visitors will receive a complimentary pint of Guinness while relaxing and enjoying spectacular views over

Enjoy dinner tonight at a nearby restaurant.

DAY 2:

DUBLIN CITY

Today you will enjoy a guided walking tour of Dublin City with **Pat Liddy walking tours**. On the tour you will experience all the wonderful sights and landmarks of this ancient city. The tour includes some of Dublin's most renowned sites, such as **St Patrick's Cathedral and Christchurch Cathedral**. You may like to visit Trinity College, where the famous "**Book of Kells**" is on display. On the city tour you will also see the **Georgian Squares, O'Connell Street, the Greens and the Phoenix Park**, which



is the largest urban parkland area in Europe. The president of Ireland resides here. You may also visit the **National Museum** of Ireland on Kildare Street. The **Book of Kells** is celebrated for its lavish decoration. It has been on display in the Old Library at Trinity College Dublin from the mid-19th century, and attracts over 500,000 visitors a year.

This afternoon enjoy Afternoon Tea at the renowned shopping experience that is Brown Thomas. Don't worry there will be some time for shopping indulgence!

Overnight again at the **Wilder Hotel** for overnight.

DAY 3:

DUBLIN-GALWAY



Today travel west to Galway - **Galway City** is the focal point of Co. Galway and the west of Ireland. It nestles at the neck of Galway Bay and is reputed to have been Columbus' final point of departure on his voyage of discovery. See St Nicholas Church, the Spanish Arch and Eyre Square. **St Nicholas Church** is a medieval church, which is dedicated to the patron saint of sailors. **The Spanish Arch** is a reminder of the city's trading links with Spain. Part of the medieval town wall is visible on the south side of the arch. **Eyre Square** is the focal point of the modern city between the old town and the docks and it

centres on a small park, named after John F Kennedy.

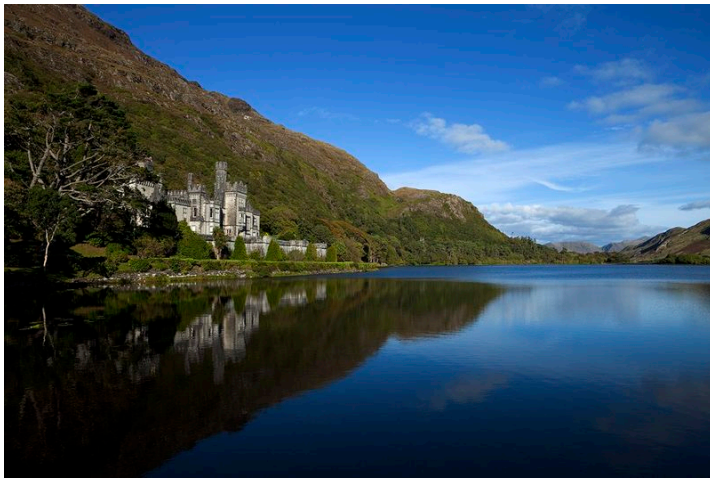
Check into the **Harbour Hotel** where the group will overnight for the next 2 nights.

Tonight, the group will enjoy a private pub tour of Galway City with Galway local Padraic O Raighne. The tour will last about 4 hours and promises to be a great night of 'Ceol & Craic'. The first stop is the Black Gate Cultural Club, a beautiful oasis of art and culture in the city. Run by Peadar King originally from the

island of Inksbofin off the Connemara Coast, Peadar offers a wide range of local craft beers and some excellent wines. The group will taste a range of local meats and cheeses from the excellent platters they serve at the Black Gate. You will then continue to Neachtains pub which is one of the oldest in Galway city. They brew some microbeers on site including a milk stout so you will have a good range of local produce to choose from. A number of mini desserts and sweet treats will be on offer here. Your final stop will be The Crane Bar known all over Ireland for its traditional music and singing sessions. Here we will arrange performances from Liam O'Brien and Conor Connolly Irish Young Musicians of the year 2017 and 2019. We will also have a seanos dancer performing who will be more than willing to share their art with the group.

DAY 4:

CONNEMARA



Connemara, made famous by a number of well-known movies – such as the John Wayne movie – “The Quiet Man”, and more recently “The Field”. Connemara is a wild and beautiful region of mountains, lakes, tumbling streams undulating bog, unspoilt beaches and panoramic views. It is a Gaelic speaking region.

The centre of Connemara is composed of mountain peaks, the Twelve Bens or Pins, which culminate in Benbaun. **Clifden** can be found about 50 miles North West of

Galway city. This diamond shaped town is the largest town west of Galway, making it the capital of the Connemara region. Set against a backdrop of mountains and ocean, this colourful and lively town is brimming with boutiques, gift and souvenir shops, cafes, fine restaurants and lots of quaint Irish pubs.

You will visit **Kylemore Abbey**. Kylemore Abbey is the only home of the Benedictine nuns in Ireland. It was originally built by Mitchell Henry, M.P. for County Galway, (a native of Manchester city) 1864-1868 as a gift for his wife, who fell in love with the site overlooking Loch Na Coille Moire (the lake of the big wood) when they came here on their honeymoon in 1860s. The Gothic Church, set in the grounds of the Abbey, is the jewel in the crown of Kylemore. It has been lovingly restored and any visit would not be complete without seeing it.

You will avail of the nun’s excellent home cooking for lunch before returning to Galway City.

Overnight again at the **Harbour Hotel**.

DAY 5:

GALWAY TO KILLARNEY

After a hearty Irish breakfast, travel southwards via **The Burren** and the **Cliffs of Moher**.

There is no front gate that says you have arrived at **The Burren**. Instead you move slowly from being surrounded by green fields, to being immersed in a sea of limestone paving, framed only by the ocean. The Burren is a region that encompasses 360km² of gently inclined plateau with a further 200km² of

lowland to the east of the plateau. The limestone is deeply fissured and most of the rivers have gone underground creating an extensive cave system.

Doolin is a charming small seaside village on the northwest coast of County Clare. Set against the rugged Atlantic Ocean and surrounded by the spectacular bare limestone landscape of the Burren, Doolin is a place of breathtaking beauty. Traditionally a fishing village, Doolin is now renowned world-wide as the traditional music capital of Ireland.



You will stop off at the **Cliffs of Moher**; Ireland's most visited natural attraction with a magical vista that captures the hearts of up to one million visitors every year. Standing 214 metres (702 feet) at their highest point

they stretch for 8 kilometres (5 miles) along the Atlantic coast. From the Cliffs of Moher on a clear day one can see the Aran Islands and Galway Bay, as well as the Twelve Pins and the Maum Turk mountains in Connemara, Loop Head to the south and the Dingle Peninsula and Blasket Islands in Kerry. O'Brien's Tower stands near the highest point and has served as a viewing point for visitors for hundreds of years.

Travel via the Shannon Ferry from Killimer to Tarbert and continue south to Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Arrive in Killarney where you will overnight for the next 3 nights at the **International Hotel. Enjoy Dinner at the hotel tonight.**

DAY 6:

RING OF KERRY

Today you will discover the Ring of Kerry - the name given to the scenic coastal drive around the Kerry peninsula, along the base of the highest mountain range in Ireland. The 100-mile journey takes you through villages and towns depicting typical rural life in Ireland. You will drive through the villages of **Glenbeigh, Cahersiveen & Sneem**, returning to Killarney.

As you descend into Killarney, you have a lovely view of the 3 Lakes of Killarney from 'Ladies View'. The view here is probably the best known of Killarney and is a major attraction for visitors. Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting visited here during the royal visit in 1861. They were so taken with the view that it was named after them. If you walk up the road from the viewing point there is another parking area and a path that leads to a wonderful view of the upper lake.



Torc Waterfall is well worth visiting and like all waterfalls it is best seen after heavy rains. The waterfall is some 70 to 80 feet high and the Owengarriff River which feeds it rises in "The Devil's Punchbowl" on nearby Mangerton Mountain. If you want a good viewing point of the lakes then push yourself a little further and climb the 100 or so steps immediately to the left of the waterfall to another viewing point at a higher altitude that provides a view over the Middle Lake. Torc waterfall is one of Killarney's most well-known tourist attractions. From here you will continue into Killarney passing Killarney's National Park and the ***Muckross House Estate***.

Overnight in Killarney.

DAY 7: DINGLE PENINSULA

Today travel north to the Dingle Peninsula, where you will enjoy visits to Louis Mulcahy Pottery.

One of the highlights of the Wild Atlantic Way, the Dingle Peninsula (Corca Dhuibhne) culminates in the Irish mainland's westernmost point. In the shadow of sacred Mt Brandon, a maze of fuchsia-fringed boreens (country lanes) weaves together an ancient landscape of prehistoric ring forts and beehive huts, early Christian chapels, crosses and holy wells, picturesque hamlets and abandoned villages.



It is particularly notable in that apart from possessing the highest peak in the country after MacGillycuddy's Reeks and some of the most magnificent coastal scenery in Munster, it preserves an unequalled series of Early Christian monuments, Iron Age fortifications and bee-hive huts which are now under the care of the state. Also a very large portion of the peninsula is a native Irish speaking area noted for its purity of its idiom.

Return to Killarney for overnight, and enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

DAY 8: KILLARNEY TO CORK TO TIPPERARY

Departing Killarney this morning, you will travel east to the village of Blarney, home to the famous Blarney Castle. Blarney Castle and Gardens, home of the famous Blarney Stone, is a great place for a day out in Cork. Incredible gardens surround Blarney Castle, built in 1446 by the King of Munster. Climb to the top of the castle and kiss the stone, which will leave you with the gift of the gab. Explore themed gardens like the tropical Fern Garden and the Poison Garden with its deadly and dangerous plants from around the world, including the caged specimens of deadly nightshade, wolfsbane and poison ivy. Don't forget to visit the Rock Close where you'll find an ancient druidic settlement and witch's kitchen. Relax after your rambles in the Blarney Castle stable yard and café or browse the Court Exhibition Rooms and the souvenir shops.

Arrive in Cashel, Co. Tipperary where you will overnight at the renowned 5* Cashel Palace Hotel. Enjoy the grounds this afternoon or perhaps book a spa treatment (payable directly).

Dinner is included tonight at Cashel Palace Hotel.

DAY 9:

TIPPERARY TO MEATH



After a leisurely morning at the Cashel Palace Hotel, you will visit the Rock of Cashel....

In the afternoon travel north to Co. Meath for your last night in Ireland....

Arrive in Co. Meath this evening and you will overnight at the Johnstown Estate – enjoy dinner here this evening. The **Johnstown Estate** is where Georgian splendour meets modern day luxury. The 1750's Georgian Rural Residence is set on 120 acres of parkland,

overlooking the river Blackwater nestled between the villages of Johnstownbridge and Enfield.

DAY 10:

DEPART DUBLIN

This morning a driver will transfer the group to Dublin Airport for your departure flight.

Slán Abhaile! (Safe home!)