# CIE TOURS

7 Days/6 Nights · April 21-27, 2019

# Taste of Ireland







### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Blarney Castle
- Cliffs of Moher
- Dublin Castle
- Ring of Kerry
- Sheepdog Demonstration
- Skellig Experience

# **PRICING**

\$1,649 per Person, Double Occupancy \$500 per Person Deposit due at Booking. Final Payment due February 7, 2019 \*Airfare and Travel Insurance are additional & can be added on at time of deposit.\*

# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

CIE Escorted Tour with transfers and tours as listed in itinerary, 6 night hotel accommodations, 10 meals, free Wi-Fi, taxes, & handling of 1 suitcase per person.

Airfare & Travel Insurance are additional.

For more information or to book contact Helen Taylor at 540-786-4000 or email Helen@TravelLeaders.com





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# **ITINERARY**

#### DAY 1: ARRIVE DUBLIN & CITY SIGHTSEEING

Arrive in Dublin and begin with a day of independent touring. Take a Hop-On, Hop-Off bus tour and enjoy a visit to one of Dublin's top attractions – Guinness Storehouse, Teeling Distillery, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, or the General Post Office Museum. Dine independently in the evening.

#### **DAY 2: DUBLIN & MERRY PLOUGHBOY PUB**

Enjoy the morning at your leisure to explore Dublin on your own. Your city tour starts at 2:00PM from the hotel lobby with a local guide for a tour of ancient and modern Dublin. Drive through the main streets to see historic buildings such as Trinity College; rows of Georgian houses with colorfully painted doorways; and the new buildings around the Financial Centre beside the River Liffey. Take a guided tour through parts of Dublin Castle, which was the seat of power and government for many centuries and today plays a leading role in European Union activities. Return to your hotel for a welcome drink with your group. In the evening, head to Merry Ploughboy Pub for a dinner of Irish specialties and a lively show with popular Irish songs and intricate step-dancing. (B, D)

#### **DAY 3: BLARNEY CASTLE & KILLARNEY**

Depart Dublin and travel through the midlands of Ireland, which has many farms. Stop for photos of the stately ruins of the Rock of Cashel, rising high above the surrounding plain. Continue your drive south and, just a few miles outside Cork, visit Blarney Castle to kiss the famous "stone of Eloquence." Also visit the Blarney Woollen Mills where you can find quality Irish-made good of all types, conveniently displayed under one roof. Drive through Macroom, built around a fine castle, and into County Kerry where the scenery becomes more mountainous. Arrive in Killarney, picturesquely set beside lakes with Ireland's highest mountains, the Macgillycuddy's Reeks, forming a backdrop. Check into your hotel and relax before dinner. (B, D)

#### **DAY 4: RING OF KERRY & SKELLIG EXPERIENCE**

Embark on Ireland's most popular 100-mile scenic drive – the Ring of Kerry. This winding route reveals breathtaking views of Macgillycuddy's Reeks as well as plenty of stops for photos at the best vantage points. After a casual lunch in a cozy restaurant, you'll continue your scenic drive to Valentia Island where you'll visit the Skellig Michael where early Christian monks lived in austere conditions and how it was used as one of the locations for the film "Star Wars VII." Pause for a stroll around Sneem, with its brightly painted houses, and at Moll's Gap for panoramic views of Ireland's highest mountains and deep valleys. Get a taste of farm life with a sheepdog demonstration of herding flocks, a shearing demonstration (seasonal), and see different breeds of sheep. Return to Killarney and enjoy a free evening of independent dining or exploring the many pubs in the town. (B, L)

#### DAY 5: CLIFFS OF MOHER & MEDIEVAL CASTLE BANQUETS

Leave Killarney and drive north to Tarbert for a 20-minute ferry ride across the wide River Shannon Estuary. Your tour continues along the coast of County Clare to the Cliffs of Moher, a spectacular wall of sandstone that reaches almost 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Drive past Lahinch Golf Course, one of Ireland's most famous, and through the marketing town of Ennis to Bunratty. Check into Bunratty Castle Hotel, which is near Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. In the evening, head to Bunratty Castle for a memorable experience in a wonderful historic setting in the Great Hall for a medieval-style feast of excellent dishes and plenty of wine. During and after the meal the lords and ladies will serenade you with songs and harp music evocative of the Middle Ages. (B, D)

# **DAY 6: DUBLIN EXTENSION VIA GALWAY**

Drive north to Galway city for a panoramic tour. Take some time to look around the city before traveling along the famous Galway Bay to Spiddal, where the locals still speak the Irish language. Then, drive across the rugged boglands of Connemara to Moycullen to visit the Connemara Marble Factory. See how locally quarried marble is made into attractive products, and enjoy tea and scones. Travel across the country to Dublin. Spend the final night of your tour independently exploring the pubs on the lively temple area, or experiencing one of Dublin's fine restaurants. (B)

# **DAY 7: DEPART FROM DUBLIN**

Your tour ends after breakfast. (B)