

IRELAND

Grand Journey



featuring
**Dublin, Kilkenny, Blarney Castle,
Killarney and Ennis**



Set on the outskirts of Europe, Ireland is a rare land where rugged beauty surrounds charming villages and contemporary cities alike. Rich in culture and folklore, Ireland abounds with Celtic myth and legend, tragic heroes, storytelling, literary genius and rebellion. Modernity thrives alongside tradition as the country enjoys a growing importance in European affairs. Wander along winding streets where centuries-old monuments and fashionable boutiques stand side by side. Explore the Irish countryside, where stunning magnificence abounds.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore cosmopolitan **Dublin** and admire its Georgian architecture.
- See Ireland's medieval heritage at ancient **Glendalough** in beautiful County Wicklow and the town of **Kilkenny**.
- Test a time-honored legend at **Blarney Castle**.
- Experience aristocratic life by staying in an authentic **manor house**.
- Discover the majestic Irish landscape along the scenic **Ring of Kerry** and at the **Cliffs of Moher**.
- Discover the unique lunarlike terrain of the **Burren**, one of Europe's most mysterious geological regions.
- Cruise to the Aran Island of **Inishmore**, with its prehistoric monuments.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- **Two nights** in **Dublin** at the **Alexander Hotel**.
- **Three nights** in **Kilkenny** at the **Newpark Hotel**.
- **One night** in **Mallow** at the **Longueville Manor House**.
- **Two nights** in **Killarney** at **The Malton**.
- **Three nights** in **Ennis** at the **Old Ground Hotel**.

Transportation

- Deluxe motorcoach transfers to Kilkenny, Mallow, Killarney and Ennis, including baggage handling at the hotels.

Activities and Events

- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception**.
- Enjoy a **Farewell Dinner**.

Meals

- Enjoy 11 breakfasts, four lunches and three dinners; tea or coffee with all meals.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **AHI Travel Director** throughout your trip.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- **Tipping** of all guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

AIR PROGRAM

- Scheduled jet service.
- Deluxe motorcoach transfers between the airports and the hotels, with baggage handling at the hotels.
- All domestic and foreign governmental airport/departure taxes and fees.
- Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance for all passengers ticketed by AHI Travel, subject to policy terms.

*Top to Bottom
Rural life in the Aran Islands;
Muckross House, Killarney*

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPARTURE

Depart for **Dublin, Ireland**, aboard scheduled jet service. (*Provided for Air Program participants only.*)

DAY 2: DUBLIN

Upon arrival in Dublin, transfer by deluxe motorcoach to the **Alexander Hotel**. (*Transfer provided for Air Program participants only.*)

Gather with fellow travelers for a *Welcome Dinner*.

DAY 3: DUBLIN

Excursion: Ireland's Capital City.

Visit Trinity College to see its famous *Book of Kells*, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and fashionable Grafton Street.

The afternoon is at leisure in Dublin.

Excursion: Pub Crawl. Pop into the favorite haunts of Dublin's famous writers and listen to entertaining stories.

DAY 4: COUNTY WICKLOW

Excursion: The Garden of Ireland.

Admire the historic home and gardens at Powerscourt Estate, set in the foothills of the Dublin Mountains. Continue through picturesque villages to the monastic settlement of Glendalough, founded in the sixth century.

Arrive in **Kilkenny** and check in at the **Kilkenny Newpark Hotel**.

DAY 5: KILKENNY

Excursion: The Marble City. Discover the medieval Norman architecture of Kilkenny. Tour Kilkenny Castle.

DAY 6: JERPOINT ABBEY & WEXFORD

Excursion: Ancient Ireland. Delve into Ireland's 9,000-year history at the Irish National Heritage Park in Wexford. Enjoy lunch on your own in Wexford before continuing to Jerpoint Abbey, the well-preserved Cistercian abbey that dates to the 12th century.

DAY 7: BLARNEY CASTLE

Excursion: Local Lore and Textiles.

Explore the 15th-century Blarney Castle, famous for its stone which, according to legend, bestows the gift of eloquence upon all who kiss it. Then, shop at the renowned Blarney Woollen Mills.

Arrive in **Mallow** and check in at the **Longueville Manor House**.

DAY 8: MUCKROSS HOUSE & KILLARNEY

Excursion: Town & Country. Visit Muckross House and Gardens, situated in Killarney National Park. Continue to Killarney for a tour of the town.

Check in at **The Malton**.

DAY 9: RING OF KERRY

Excursion: Ring of Kerry. Travel along one of the most scenic coastal routes in the world. Along the way, meet a shepherd who will demonstrate the herding skills of his loyal border collies.

DAY 10: CLIFFS OF MOHER & THE BURREN

Excursion: Sweeping Vistas and Mysterious Dolmen. Admire views of the Atlantic Ocean from atop the Cliffs of Moher. Then, discover vestiges of ancient civilizations on the limestone Burren.

Afterwards, continue to **Ennis** and check in at the **Old Ground Hotel**.

DAY 11: ARAN ISLANDS

Excursion: Aran Islands. Cruise to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands. Encounter prehistoric forts, megalithic tombs and the remains of churches. Walk to the ruins of the Dún Aengus fortress, which sits on the edge of a cliff.

DAY 12: ENNIS

Independent Exploration: Your final day in Ireland is at leisure to pursue what interests you.

Cultural Connection: Storytelling, music and dance. Listen as Eddie Lehinen regales you with traditional Irish storytelling. Eddie has been preserving and documenting this ancient art for years. Following your *Farewell Dinner* at the hotel, enjoy an exclusive performance of Irish music and dance.

DAY 13: RETURN

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city. (*Provided for Air Program participants only.*)

NOTE: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are located in areas not closely accessible by motorcoach.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Alexander Hotel Dublin

The hotel is a short walk from major attractions, including Trinity College and the shops of Grafton Street. Its amenities include well-appointed guestrooms, a restaurant and fitness center.

Newpark Hotel Kilkenny

Recently refurbished, this hotel offers modern conveniences and amenities. Unwind at the hotel's health club, indulge at the spa or stop by the restaurant and lounge to sample delicious cuisine.

Longueville House Hotel Mallow

Luxurious Longueville House Hotel, built in 1720, is on a 500-acre family estate and working farm. The two restaurants feature produce from the manor's two-acre walled garden, meat and game from the farm, and fish from the Blackwater River, which flows through the estate. Each guestroom is decorated with family art and features pampering amenities.

The Malton Killarney

The Malton is a historic Victorian landmark located in Killarney's city center and situated on six acres of beautiful gardens. The hotel has several dining venues, a full-service spa, tennis courts, swimming pool, jacuzzi and library.

Old Ground Hotel Ennis

This ivy-clad hotel, an 18th-century manor house, combines old-world charm with warm Irish hospitality. Relax in the calm and cozy atmosphere of the hotel lounge or you may want to pass some time in the Residents Library. Set in the center of Ennis, it is close to restaurants and shopping.



AHI Travel
6400 Shafer Court
Rosemont, IL 60018

