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Ireland: Hiking the Emerald Isle

DURATION | 9 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Level 3 - Dynamic

Trip Overview

Embark on a mesmerizing journey across Ireland, starting in Dublin, a vibrant city known for its rich history, arts, and global significance. Your adventure begins with a breathtaking hike near the Rock of Cashel, through the Glen of Aherlow, and onto the Beara Peninsula, part of the Wild Atlantic Way. Experience authentic Irish culture by meeting local entrepreneurs, including a brewer and an oyster farming family. Discover the tranquil charm of Kenmare, known as “Neidin” or “little nest,” and explore the ancient relics and captivating landscapes of the Beara Peninsula, including a ferry ride to the enchanting Skellig Islands. Traverse the majestic Killarney National Park, crowned by the McGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Range, and revel in the natural beauty and vibrant culture of Dingle. Conclude your trip with awe-inspiring views from the Cliffs of Moher, a visit to Doolin’s local pubs and music scene, and a special farewell dinner celebrating your unforgettable Irish adventure.

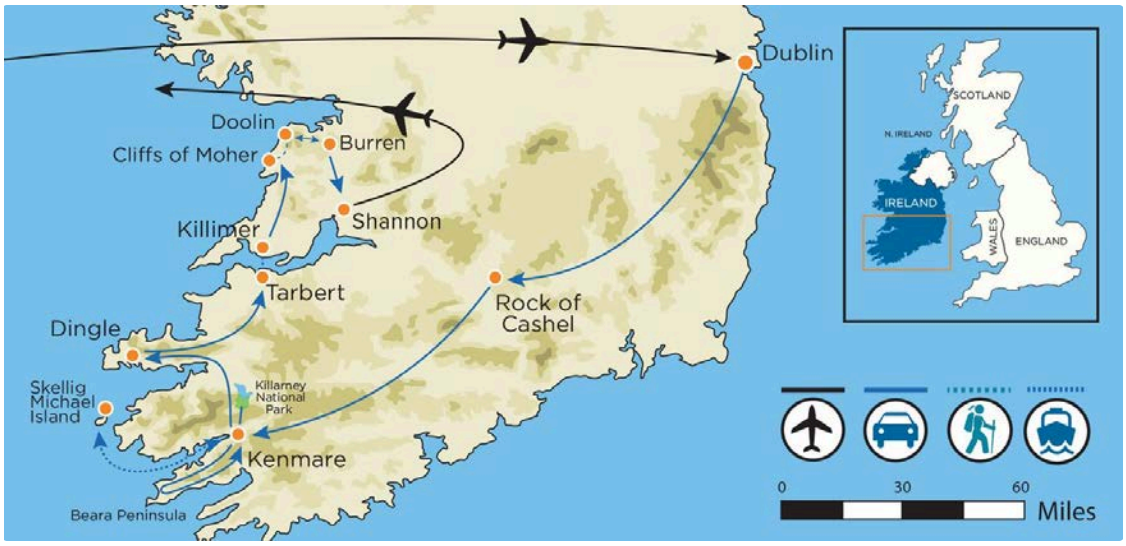
Trip Highlights

• Explore Ireland’s iconic landscapes with unforgettable hikes along the Kilkee Cliffs and cruise along the Cliffs of Moher, the stunning Dingle Peninsula, and the picturesque Killarney National Park.

• Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime visit to the Skellig Michael bird sanctuary, where ancient monastic ruins and dramatic cliffs create an awe-inspiring setting.

• Immerse yourself in Ireland’s vibrant culture by meeting inspiring women in the arts and craft industries. Gain insights from a talented writer and a skilled female brewer.

Map View



Arrival: Arrive in Dublin, Ireland (DUB) on Day 1 by 12:00 PM.

Departure: Depart from Shannon, Ireland (SNN) on Day 9 after 1:00 PM.

Trip Itinerary

Day 1

Welcome to Dublin!

Fáilte go hÉireann—welcome to Ireland! Upon arrival in Dublin, the Republic of Ireland's largest city, you'll experience its vibrant blend of education, arts, and history. Meet your expert Irish guide and fellow travelers, setting the stage for an enriching adventure. After checking into your hotel, take some time to relax or explore nearby attractions like Trinity College and Christchurch Cathedral. The evening culminates in a lively welcome dinner where you'll connect with your group and share your excitement for the journey ahead.

Meals: dinner | Overnight: The Mont Hotel

The Mont Hotel

The Mont Hotel combines stylish contemporary design with an unbeatable Dublin city-center location beside Merrion Square.nd the Oscar Wilde Memorial. This award-winning 4-star boutique hotel offers modern comfort, vibrant social spaces, and easy access to the city's top cultural and business attractions. Perfect for both business and leisure travelers, The Mont delivers a chic and welcoming Dublin experience.

AMENITIES: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, coffee / tea maker, bottled water, electric kettle, cable / satellite TV, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi, air conditioning

Trip Itinerary

Day 2

Journey to Kerry

After breakfast, embark on a scenic drive to County Kerry. Stop at the Rock of Cashel, an ancient fortress offering a glimpse into Ireland’s medieval past. Continue to the Glen of Aherlow for a 3-4 mile hike through lush woodlands with views of the Christ the King statue. After checking into your hotel, gather for dinner and unwind after a day of exploration. This hike covers uneven terrain and provides an introduction to Ireland’s stunning landscapes. Today’s hike spans 3 miles and typically takes 1.5 to 2 hours to complete, traversing uneven dirt and gravel terrain.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Brook Lane Hotel

Brook Lane Hotel

The Brook Lane is a family run 4-star boutique hotel. Its staff are friendly and local, the design is contemporary, hospitality is instinctive, and the atmosphere is easygoing. And it's all just a short walk from the pretty town of Kenmare on the Wild Atlantic Way. The perfect location to explore Kenmare!

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, flatscreen TV, safe, Wi-Fi, air conditioning

Trip Itinerary

Day 3

Exploring the Beara Peninsula

Today, explore the Beara Peninsula, renowned for its rich history and mythological significance. Hike through diverse landscapes including beaches and fields, guided by a female writer and historian who will share insights into the region's lore and history. Enjoy lunch amidst the scenic beauty of abandoned mines and ocean views. After the hike, you have the evening free to dine on your own in Kenmare. Today's hike is approximately 5-6 miles, and typically takes 4 to 5.5 hours to complete, traversing uneven terrain of sand, dirt, gravel. Grass with a small rock scramble and steel stepladders can also be found along the way.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Brook Lane Hotel

Trip Itinerary

Day 4

Skellig Michael Adventure

Embark on a 40-minute ferry ride to Skellig Michael, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its dramatic cliffs and ancient monastic ruins. Climb to the summit, passing puffins and seabirds, and explore the well-preserved 6th-century monastery. After a day of exploration and birdwatching, return to Kenmare for a relaxing evening. Enjoy dinner on your own, reflecting on the awe-inspiring beauty of Skellig Michael. Today's hike involves climbing up 618 steps. Steps to the top are uneven with 600 feet of elevation gain.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Brook Lane Hotel

Trip Itinerary

Day 5

Hiking in Killarney National Park

Drive to Killarney National Park and hike the Old Kenmare Road, a highlight of the Kerry Way. Ascend to Windy Gap for panoramic views of the park, the MacGillycuddy Reeks, and the Lakes of Killarney. After a packed lunch on the trail, finish at Muckross House, a Tudor-style mansion. Following the hike, drive to Dingle and enjoy dinner with your group. Today's hike is approximately 8 miles, and typically takes 4 to 5.5 hours to complete, and involves 1,200 feet of elevation gain.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Dingle Benners Hotel

Dingle Benners Hotel

The Dingle Benners Hotel offers a relaxed and cozy atmosphere in the heart of Dingle town. The hotel serves as a great base to explore the beauty and landscape of the Dingle Peninsula.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, safe, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi

Trip Itinerary

Day 6

Discovering Dingle Peninsula

Take a scenic drive to the Great Blasket Island Center to learn about the island's unique history. Enjoy a hike through the rugged landscape before visiting Ireland’s first female brewer, where you’ll tour the brewery and enjoy lunch. Wrap up the day with a group dinner. Today’s hike is approximately 6 miles, and typically takes 2.5-3 hours, traversing uneven terrain with 500 feet of elevation gain.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Dingle Benners Hotel

Trip Itinerary

Day 7

Cliffs of Moher to Doolin

Begin your day with a drive, including a ferry across the Shannon River, and heading up the Wild Atlantic Way for a hike along Kilkee Cliffs. Before settling into your accommodation in Doolin village this evening, you will enjoy a cruise along the Cliffs of Moher, offering incredible panoramic views as well as highlighting the wild birds that make their homes in the rock crevices. Dine on your own in one of the many pubs and restaurants in Doolin this evening. The hike scheduled for today covers around 4 miles and is expected to take approximately 2 hours.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: The Doolin Inn

The Doolin Inn

A charming bed and breakfast with only 22 guest rooms, The Doolin Inn is nestled in the heart of Doolin at the start of the Cliffs of Moher walk.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, safe, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi

Trip Itinerary

Day 8

Exploring Doolin and the Burren

Start your day with a visit to the Cliffs of Moher visitor center and a short walk along the soaring cliffs. You will then set off for your hike through the otherworldly Burren, with its lunar-like landscapes and vibrant flora. Along the way, pass medieval churches and ancient wells, steeped in history. Conclude your epic Irish adventure with a heartfelt farewell dinner with your group. Today's 4–5-mile hike takes approximately 2.5-3 hours to complete, traversing very uneven terrain featuring grassy stretches and limestone surfaces.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: The Doolin Inn

Trip Itinerary

Day 9

Departure

After breakfast, drive to Shannon Airport for your departure. Your journey concludes with fond memories of Ireland's stunning landscapes, rich culture, and unforgettable experiences.

What's Included

What's Included

• Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
• All meals as listed in the itinerary
• Activities as indicated in the itinerary
• One group transfer on arrival and departure
• All ground transportation
• Drinking water available from taps to refill personal bottles
• All gratuities except guides and drivers

Not Included

• International airfare to and from Ireland
• Optional activities
• Meals not specified in the itinerary
• Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
• Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
• Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
• Items of a personal nature
• Gratuities for guides and drivers

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.