

12-DAY TOUR!

Irish Classic

ENGLISH LANGUAGE COACH TOUR 2006

ITINERARY

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Abbey Tavern Dinner
& Traditional Music

Giant's Causeway
& Old Bushmills Distillery

Walking tours around
historic Derry & Waterford

Day Excursion to Achill Island

Cobh Heritage Centre
& Hook Lighthouse

Catamaran Cruise of Killarney Fjord

No hidden extras!

All visits and meals included
as per itinerary

Day 1: Dublin & Guinness

Arrive in Dublin Airport, complete immigration formalities and pick up your luggage. Go to the CIE Tours desk in the Arrivals Hall to arrange a group transfer to your hotel between 7:00 am and 12:00 noon. If your flight arrives later, you will need to transfer to the hotel at your own expense. At 2:00 pm tour the city centre and visit the **Guinness Storehouse** to learn about the famous brewery and sample a pint. In the evening meet your fellow travellers over a **welcome drink** and your guide will assist you in choosing a restaurant where you may dine independently.

Day 2: Dublin Castle & Abbey Tavern

This morning a city sightseeing tour will introduce you to Dublin's many historic buildings, delightful gardens and lively shopping streets. Tour **Dublin Castle's** State Apartments, built in the Georgian period, to view historical portraits and superb furnishings. Visit the **National Botanic Gardens** where you can see elaborate Victorian glasshouses. Walk through different types of gardens containing collections of plants and trees from all over the world. The afternoon is at leisure for independent interests. In the evening drive to the **Abbey Tavern** for traditional Irish cuisine, Irish coffee and a lively session of popular folk songs.

Day 3: Downpatrick & Mount Stewart

Drive north via Drogheda, past the gentle slopes of the Mourne Mountains and follow the shoreline to Downpatrick. Visit the **St. Patrick Centre** to learn about Ireland's patron saint and **Down Cathedral** to see his reputed burial place, marked by a huge granite boulder. Cross **Strangford Lough by ferry** to visit **Mount Stewart House and Gardens**. Home to Lord Castlereagh during Napoleonic times, this mansion contains portraits and furnishings. The extensive gardens are considered among the finest in the country. Check into your hotel in Belfast.

Day 4: Belfast & Giant's Causeway

See the Victorian highlights of Belfast with a **local guide**, including the Albert Memorial, the Opera House and Crown Liquor Saloon. Drive north to experience one of Ireland's scenic coastal routes. The "Nine Glens of Antrim" offer wonderful views of mountains, valleys and coastline. Stop at **Old Bushmills Distillery**, which received a license in 1608. Learn how whiskey is distilled and have a sample. Drive to the nearby **Giant's Causeway**, hexagonal columns formed by volcanic activity over 60 million years ago. The enormous rocks have spawned legends about the mythical giant, Finn McCool. Continue along the coast to Derry. In the evening join a local guide for a **walking tour** around the ancient centre of Derry, including the medieval city walls, the Diamond and St. Columb's Cathedral.



Day 5: Belleek & Westport

Journey south to Ballybofey and through the scenery of the Blue Stack Mountains to Ardara. Stop at **Triona Designs** to see how locally-produced wool is spun and woven. Enjoy tea and scones before driving through Donegal town to Belleek. The **Belleek Pottery Factory** was founded in the mid-19th century to create employment. Today you can watch skilled craftspeople create intricate basket-weave designs in delicate china. Travel through Sligo, often referred to as “Yeats’ Country”, and the rocky landscape of Mayo. Continue to Westport where your hotel is located in the central square.

Day 6: Achill Island Tour

After a late breakfast travel around Clew Bay, reputed to have 365 islands. Drive via Newport and across the Curraun Peninsula to reach Achill Island, joined to the mainland by a bridge. Follow the Atlantic Drive to capture wonderful and wild scenic views of steeply sloped mountains plunging into the shimmering Atlantic Ocean. Near Slievemore see the Deserted Village, the remains of nearly 100 stone cottages used by people who took cattle to summer pasture. Also see stretches of windswept bogland and golden beaches. Return to Westport where you may spend some time relaxing in your hotel or exploring the attractive town. Westport was laid out in 1780 and today still boasts many Georgian houses and a fine tree-lined mall.

Day 7: Catamaran Cruise & Galway

Travel through some charming coastal and mountain scenery of County Mayo as you drive between Clew Bay and the conical peak of Croaghpatrick. Pilgrims climb the stony path to the rocky summit where Saint Patrick reputedly prayed. At Leenane embark on a short catamaran cruise aboard the “**Connemara Lady**” to view the delightful scenery of Killary Harbour, Ireland’s only fjord. Drive through the gentle hills and open spaces of Connemara to Clifden. Stop for a look around the town before continuing through more of Connemara’s lovely landscapes to Galway.

Day 8: Cliffs Of Moher & Killarney

Travel through the Burren, limestone hills with many unique flora and prehistoric stone monuments. View the majestic **Cliffs of Moher**, a rocky wall that rises nearly 700 feet above the foaming Atlantic Ocean. Drive to Bunratty where you may choose to lunch in Durty Nelly’s or walk around the Bunratty Folk Park. Pass through the outskirts of Limerick and stop in the charming village of Adare, renowned for its thatched cottages. Arrive in Killarney, check into your hotel and take a stroll around town before dinner.

Day 9: Ring of Kerry Tour

Journey around the Ring of Kerry, a full day tour of varying mountain and coastline scenery. Start your tour at the Gap of Dunloe by viewing the “**Heart of Kerry**,” an audio visual show, which will give you plenty of information on the area. Continue your drive around the coast to the colourful village of Sneem and the vantage point of Moll’s Gap. Just outside Killarney tour **Muckross House**, a 19th century furnished mansion, which is set in charming gardens on the shores of Muckross Lake. Return to Killarney and relax before dinner.

Day 10: Cobh Heritage & Waterford Crystal

Drive through the mountains of Kerry and make a brief stop at the **Blarney Woollen Mills** in the village of Blarney. Travel through the outskirts of Cork city to visit **Cobh Heritage Centre**, located in the old train station through which all emigrants passed to embark on the journey to the United States. See what travel was like under sail and steam and the many hardships travellers had to endure. Continue along the south coast to Waterford. On the outskirts of the city, visit the **Waterford Crystal Factory** to see how this popular crystal is created. In the showrooms see a wide range of tableware and special trophies. Check into your hotel and, after dinner, join a **local guide for a stroll** around the historic city centre.

Day 11: Hook Lighthouse & 6th Century Glendalough

Drive to the south coast to visit **Hook Lighthouse**, which dates from the early 13th century and is a unique example of an almost intact medieval lighthouse. This beacon served ships for 800 years and when it became fully automated in 1996, it was opened to the public. It gave rise to the expression “By Hook or by Crook.” Drive to Wicklow to visit the **Glendalough Visitor Centre** to learn about St. Kevin’s 6th century monastery. Walk through the ruined churches and round tower, which are set in a peaceful valley between two lakes. Continue your journey into Dublin where the evening is free.

Day 12: Return Home

Take a group transfer to Dublin Airport. After check-in, you’ll have time to shop at the duty free shops before boarding your flight for the journey home.

Extra nights can be reserved in Dublin if you require.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

- ❖ Transfer between Dublin Airport and hotel on arrival and departure (if arrival is before 12:00)
- ❖ Sightseeing by luxury coach throughout
- ❖ Services of a professional Irish tour director
- ❖ Superior first class hotels with private bath/shower for 11 nights
- ❖ 11 full Irish breakfasts
- ❖ 9 dinners including
 - Traditional Irish evening with dinner and entertainment at the Abbey Tavern
 - 8 table d'hote dinners
- ❖ Welcome get-together drink
- ❖ Tour and a pint at the Guinness Storehouse
- ❖ Ferry ride across Strangford Lough
- ❖ Tour of Belfast with a local guide
- ❖ Whiskey tasting and tour of Old Bushmills Distillery
- ❖ Walking tours of Derry & Waterford with local guides
- ❖ Day tour to Achill Island
- ❖ Catamaran cruise of Killary Fjord
- ❖ Visits and admissions to Dublin Castle, National Botanic Gardens, St. Patrick Centre, Down Cathedral, Mount Stewart House and Gardens, Giant's Causeway, Triona Designs, Belleek Pottery Factory, Cliffs of Moher, Heart of Kerry AV Show, Muckross House, Blarney Woollen Mills, Cobh Heritage Centre, Waterford Crystal Factory, Hook Lighthouse and Glendalough Visitor Centre
- ❖ All local taxes, hotel service charges & portage for one suitcase per person

YOUR HOTELS:

- Stay at the following (or similar):
- ❖ Jury's Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin (2 nights)
 - ❖ Europa Hotel, Belfast (1 night)
 - ❖ City Hotel, Derry (1 night)
 - ❖ Wyatt Hotel, Westport (2 nights)
 - ❖ Connemara Coast Hotel, Galway (1 night)
 - ❖ Killarney Plaza Hotel, Killarney (2 nights)
 - ❖ Granville Hotel, Waterford (1 night)
 - ❖ Burlington Hotel, Dublin (1 night)

DEPARTURE DATES & SELLING PRICE FOR 2006 SEASON

March	Thurs 30	€1387.00
April	Thurs 6	€1387.00
	Thurs 13	€1387.00
	Thurs 20	€1387.00
	Sat 22	€1387.00
April	Thurs 27	€1577.00
	Sat 29	€1577.00
May	Thurs 4	€1577.00
	Sat 6	€1577.00
	Thurs 11	€1577.00
	Sat 13	€1577.00
	Thurs 18	€1577.00
	Sat 20	€1577.00
	Thurs 25	€1577.00
	Sat 27	€1577.00
June	Thurs 1	€1595.00
	Sat 3	€1595.00
	Thurs 8	€1595.00
	Sat 10	€1595.00
	Thurs 15	€1595.00
	Sat 17	€1595.00
	Thurs 22	€1595.00
	Sat 24	€1595.00
	Thurs 29	€1595.00
July	Sat 1	€1595.00
	Thurs 6	€1595.00
	Sat 8	€1595.00
	Thurs 13	€1595.00
	Sat 15	€1595.00
	Thurs 20	€1595.00
	Sat 22	€1595.00
	Thurs 27	€1595.00
	Sat 29	€1595.00
August	Thurs 3	€1595.00
	Sat 5	€1595.00
	Thurs 10	€1595.00
	Sat 12	€1595.00
	Thurs 17	€1595.00
	Sat 19	€1595.00
	Thurs 24	€1595.00
	Sat 26	€1595.00
	Thurs 31	€1595.00
September	Sat 2	€1595.00
	Thurs 7	€1595.00
	Sat 9	€1595.00
	Thurs 14	€1595.00
	Sat 16	€1595.00
	Thurs 21	€1595.00
	Sat 23	€1595.00
	Thurs 28	€1595.00
	Sat 30	€1595.00
October	Thurs 5	€1470.00
	Sat 7	€1470.00
	Thurs 12	€1470.00
	Sat 14	€1470.00
	Thurs 19	€1470.00
	Sat 21	€1470.00
	Thurs 26	€1470.00
	Sat 28	€1470.00

Single Room Supplement €414.00.
All Rates in €

