

A stylish outing which stays at the distinguished and luxurious Ashford Castle, all the while showcasing the very best sightseeing and scenery Ireland has to offer.



Magnificent Cliffs of Moher

Irish Elegance

TOUR PACE

Ireland's compact landscape means driving distances are not great. Therefore, the tour pace is relatively easy going. This is complemented by the two-night stays in Killarney and Galway Bay.

HOTELS

We have carefully selected hotels to give you a great touring experience in style. From the amazing views of the Connemara Coast Hotel to the elegance of historic Ashford Castle, you are sure to be enchanted and delighted!

FELLOW PASSENGERS

Those with a love for natural scenic beauty are in for a treat. Yet this tour is equally popular with discerning guests who not only appreciate style and elegance, but a pint of Guinness and a joke with the locals as well.

INSIGHT FACT

Ashford Castle: The castle was built in 1228 by the Anglo-Norman de Burgo family and it was their principle stronghold in the vastness of the wild and untamed region. The modern estate was extended by the Guinness family and today is a five star hotel, one of the Leading Hotels of the World. Insight stays here on this tour.

DAY 1 – ARRIVE DUBLIN Welcome to Dublin! On arrival at Dublin Airport, your *airport shuttle service* leaves for the tour hotel at 07:00, 09:30 & 12:00. Later, join your Tour Director for a *city tour* that brings to life Dublin's architectural treasures and history stretching back more than 1,000 years. *Visit St. Patrick's Cathedral*, founded in 1190, tour Dublin's beautiful *Georgian squares*, walk the cobbled courtyards of *Trinity College* to its famed *library* and see its truly unique world treasure – *the 8th century Book of Kells*. Back at your hotel, join your Tour Director and fellow travellers for a *Welcome Dinner and a tour briefing*. Hotel: Burlington. (D)

DAY 2 – DUBLIN – KILLARNEY Depart Dublin, and pass the green meadows where many of the finest Irish racehorses are bred, as well as the famous Curragh Racecourse. Stop at the *Rock of Cashel*, an impressive pre-Christian settlement. The dramatic limestone rock, crowned with secular and religious buildings, dominates the flat countryside for miles around. *A local guide will point out some of the cathedrals and historic sites on an orientation tour*. Then continue on to the village of Blarney. *Climb to the ramparts of Blarney Castle* and kiss its magical stone to ensure a lifetime of eloquence. There is also time to browse through *Blarney Woollen Mills* to shop for Irish knitwear and crafts. Afterwards, head to bustling *Killarney*. If you fancy a 'pint of porter', this town on the lakes is famous for its lively pubs, so why not join in the 'craic' tonight. Hotel: Scott's Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 3 – THE RING OF KERRY EXCURSION *Travel the road that winds around the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula, better known as the Ring of Kerry. It is undoubtedly one of the most magical places in all Ireland.* Here mountains, valleys, lakes and sea blend into a landscape that is often breathtaking beyond words. Stopping at *Torc Waterfall* for photos, there is a chance to *join a hike with a qualified guide along the lakeshore and past the farmlands of the Muckross Estate, admiring the spectacular scenery. Walk by West Meadow Bay and visit Muckross Abbey*. For those who do not want to join the hike, the motorcoach will return you to Killarney, where the balance of the day is free. (B)

DAY 4 – KILLARNEY – CONNEMARA This morning *cross the Shannon estuary by ferry* and enter County Clare. *Stop for a walk along the Cliffs of Moher, rising approximately 700 feet above the pounding Atlantic waves.* Then travel north across the *Burren*, a suddenly stark and barren landscape. *Drop in for afternoon tea at Rathbaun Farm and meet a Galway farming family as they carry out their everyday chores. Watch as the farmer shears a sheep and maneuvers his flock with the help of his dog.* Next, on to tour Galway, "City of the Tribes," including lovely *Galway Cathedral*. Tonight your hotel is spectacularly set on the shores of Galway Bay. Hotel: Connemarra Coast. (B,D)

DAY 5 – KILLARY FJORD EXCURSION *Head to Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fjord, boasting some of the finest scenery in the land. Board a boat for a cruise through the calm waters; relax on board, enjoy the spectacular, uninterrupted views of the fjord and mountains beyond.* Later, on the way back to your hotel, stop at lakeside *Kylemore Abbey*, a castellated neo-Gothic mansion, occupied today by a Benedictine community of nuns who came from Ypres after World War I. (B,D)

DAY 6 – CONNEMARA - CONG (ASHFORD CASTLE) Today experience *Connemara*, a land of rocky mountains, sparkling brooks and rushing rivers. Your Tour Director will also reveal a *hidden treasure*. Then, drive on to *Cong*, a village with a deliberate old-world feel, and the setting for *The Quiet Man*. Cong is also where you enter into the grounds of majestic Ashford Castle. Ashford

Castle provides a romantic backdrop in superior surroundings, offering guests both relaxation and comfort. There are many opportunities to explore the vast estate with fishing on Lough Corrib, equestrian pursuits, golf, falconry and trail walking. Or simply relax in the castle's luxurious interiors and enjoy your favourite novel or pamper yourself at the spa. *Dining at Ashford Castle ranks among the finest culinary experiences in the world. Creative cooking, an inspired use of seasonal ingredients and an innovative menu await you at dinner tonight.* Hotel: Ashford Castle. (B,HD)

DAY 7 – CONG – DUBLIN Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning and perhaps a stroll on the estate. Then cross the midlands to Dublin where the balance of the day is free for independent activities and maybe some last minute shopping. Hotel: Burlington. (B)

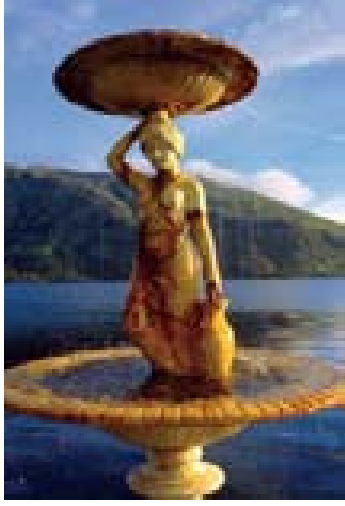
DAY 8 – DUBLIN Departure transfers arrive at Dublin Airport at 07:00, 09:00 & 11:00. (B)



Stay at Ashford Castle, former estate of the Guinness family and dating back to 1228

8 DAYS ~ IRELAND

Board a boat at Killary Harbour for a cruise with views of the fjord and mountains beyond



Killary Fjord
Kylemore Abbey
CONG (Ashford Castle) (Day 6)
CONNEMARA (Day 4 and 5)
Galway

Dine and spend the night at Ashford Castle, one of the finest culinary experiences in the world

Cliffs of Moher
The Burren
Rathbaun Farm

Drop in for tea with the Connolly family and meet a Galway farming family

Shannon Estuary

Experience the sheer sandstone cliffs that rise 700ft from the Atlantic Ocean

Key

- PREMIUM HIGHLIGHTS
- PERSONAL INSIGHTS
- HIGHLIGHT DINNERS
- LOCALLY GUIDED SIGHTSEEING
- ORIENTATION TOUR
- CENTRAL HOTELS + NIGHTS
- SCENIC HOTELS + NIGHTS
- HERITAGE HOTEL + NIGHTS

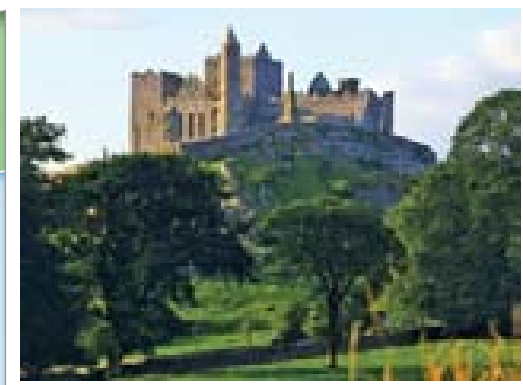
See hotel details on pages 168-172

Travel the road that winds around the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula
Join a hike with a qualified guide

Ring of Kerry
KILLARNEY (Day 2 and 3)

Cashel

A local guide will point out cathedrals and historic sites



DUBLIN (Day 1 and 7)

Kildare

Included Premium Highlights

- Take a guided tour of the Rock of Cashel, former seat of Irish kings
- Tour the scenic 'The Ring of Kerry,' with its dramatic mountains, valleys, lakes and sea vistas
- Join a qualified guide for a two and a half hour hike over wooded paths and lakeshore trails
- Look out to the Atlantic Ocean from the majestic Cliffs of Moher
- Enjoy the scenic views as you cruise the serene waters of Killary Harbour, Ireland's only fjord

Included Personal Insights

- The Connolly family have farmed in rural southwest Ireland for 200 years. Join them for afternoon tea and glimpse the daily workings of a traditional sheep-farm

Included Additional Excursions & Sights

- Visit St Patrick's Cathedral and tour some of Dublin's elegant squares
- Visit the old library of Trinity College to see the 8th century Book of Kells
- Climb Blarney Castle and dangle from the ramparts to kiss the famous 'Blarney Stone'
- Cross the Shannon Estuary by ferry
- Drive through the mysterious rocky limestone landscape of the Burren
- See Galway's Roman Catholic Cathedral
- Visit the turreted neo-Gothic Kylemore Abbey
- Scenic drives – Wicklow Mountains, Ring of Kerry, the 'Burren', Connemara

Included First Class Services

- Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- Luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with onboard toilet
- Insight Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portage
- Insight Traveller document wallet, map book journal and information pack
- Airport Shuttle arrival and departure transfers at scheduled times on Day 1 and Day 8

Included Quality Dining

- Enjoy a delicious four-course dinner at Ashford Castle* (HD)
 - 7 full Breakfasts (B) and 4 three-course Evening Meals with choice, plus tea or coffee (D)
- *Please note that the dress code for Ashford Castle dinner is Smart Casual - jacket & tie for men is required.

Save up to US\$205 p.p. - see reductions below

Starts - Ends Dublin	Twin Share p.p.	Single Room p.p.	Starts - Ends Dublin	Twin Share p.p.	Single Room p.p.	Starts - Ends Dublin	Twin Share p.p.	Single Room p.p.
Apr 25 - May 02	\$1990	\$590	Jul 04 - Jul 11	\$2075	\$650	Aug 29 - Sep 05	\$2075	\$650
May 09 - May 16	\$2025	\$590	Jul 11 - Jul 18	\$2075	\$650	Sep 05 - Sep 12	\$2075	\$650
May 16 - May 23	\$2075	\$650	Jul 18 - Jul 25	\$2075	\$650	Sep 12 - Sep 19	\$2075	\$650
Jun 06 - Jun 13	\$2075	\$650	Aug 01 - Aug 08	\$2075	\$650	Sep 19 - Sep 26	\$2075	\$650
Jun 13 - Jun 20	\$2075	\$650	Aug 08 - Aug 15	\$2075	\$650	Sep 26 - Oct 03	\$2025	\$590
Jun 27 - Jul 04	\$2075	\$650	Aug 15 - Aug 22	\$2075	\$650	Oct 03 - Oct 10	\$1985	\$590

Supplements

Pre & post tour accommodation

Per person, per night	Twin	Single	Triple
Burlington, Dublin	\$140	\$206	\$133

Notes

REF: BRAC. As Insight's room mate matching is not available on this tour. Prices are in US\$.
Tours start and end on Sundays.
This tour is operated in conjunction with our sister company.
Insight's Airport Shuttle Service
Transfers operate on the days and at the times shown in the itinerary. Passengers arriving outside these days and times have the option of either purchasing a transfer (see page 17) or making their own way from/to the airport.

Reductions

Triple room reduction N/A
Insight's Great Savings & Discounts
SAVE \$205 per person with Young Traveller Discount
SAVE up to \$104 per person with 2nd Tour Discount
SAVE up to \$104 per person with Frequent Traveller Discount
Early Payment Discount 12 mths 10 mths 6 mths
SAVE per person \$205 \$150 \$100
For additional information regarding Insight's great Savings & Discounts, please see page 18.

Included are worth approximately US\$140