

Discover Ireland

Sunday 25 August — Thursday 12 September 2024
16 nights

TOUR OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Emerald Isle, where history, culture and stunning landscapes come together to create an enchanting journey. Prepare to be captivated by the beauty and hospitality that Ireland is renowned for.

Your adventure begins in Dublin, Ireland's vibrant capital city. There will be food, music and of course a spot of Guinness, as well as a look at highlights of this historic city. Then on the road for stops at Kilkenny, a vibrant modern city with medieval roots, and Cork, to learn about Ireland's epic emigration stories.

Continue your exploration along the scenic Ring of Kerry, where mountains, lakes and charming villages await. At the majestic Cliffs of Moher you'll be treated to striking views of the Atlantic Ocean crashing against towering cliffs. Visit the Aran Islands, home to a small mainly Irish-speaking population.

After exploring Ireland's northwest, cross to Northern Ireland. In Derry and Belfast learn first-hand about 'The Troubles'. Visit the Giant's Causeway, and in Belfast experience the modern Titanic exhibition centre.

Throughout your journey you can indulge in traditional Irish cuisine from hearty stews and fresh seafood to creamy pints of Guinness and some excellent Irish whiskey. And be sure to raise a glass to the lively spirit of the Irish people, who will make you feel right at home wherever you go.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy the character and city life of Dublin and Belfast
- Try a pint of Guinness or an Irish whiskey and experience the hospitality and craic of Irish pubs
- Learn the history of 'The Troubles' on a black cab tour of Belfast
- Discover the history and story of the fabled Titanic ship on a multi-sensory exhibition
- Free time to explore towns and villages of real character
- Kiss the Blarney Stone and see if it transfers to you the 'gift of the gab'
- Appreciate the beautiful rolling green hills of the Emerald Isle and gaze to the horizons from the Cliffs of Moher
- Admire the natural beauty of the hexagonal basalt columns of the Giants Causeway
- Enjoy the sights and small towns around the Ring of Kerry
- A day on the rugged and atmospheric Inis Mór, one of the Aran Islands.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

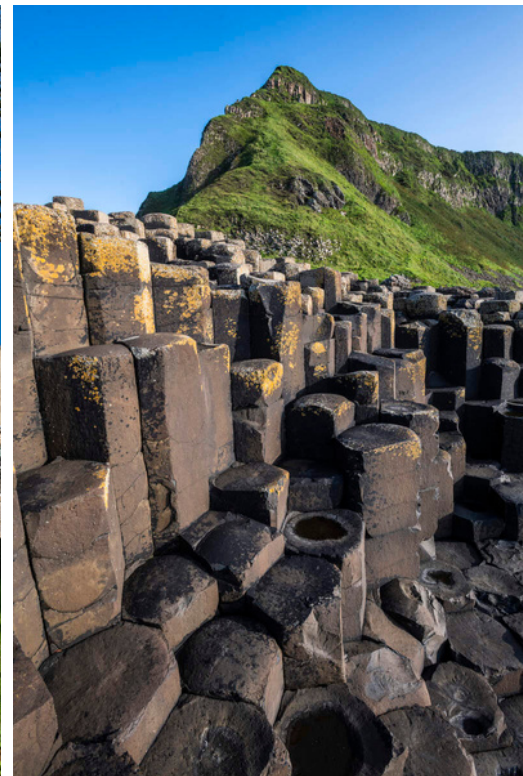
- The services of an experienced New Zealand based Calder & Lawson Tours tour manager
- 16 nights accommodation in Ireland
- Breakfast daily and meals as specified in the itinerary
- All group transfers as specified in the itinerary
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- All tips for local guides and other service providers
- Pre-tour material

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Airfares and airline taxes
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Hotel portorage

IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

This tour will delight lovers of history, culture and traditional music, and is an excellent opportunity for an extensive tour of both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. There will be a moderate amount of walking, some climbing up and down hills and flights of stairs and along cobbled streets and uneven terrain. This means a good degree of fitness is required. One of the most tiring aspects of travelling can be the 1– 2 hours of standing on visits to museums and gardens, so you should be prepared for this.



TOUR PRICE

Share twin per person NZ\$12,490
Single supplement NZ\$2,890

Please contact Calder & Lawson Tours if you are interested in a single occupancy place.

GROUP SIZE Minimum 10, maximum 18

VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour, or book business class or premium economy seats. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

FLIGHTS

The price of this tour does not include international flights. We will advise you of a group flight option where you can travel from Auckland with your tour manager to Dublin. Most likely this will be on Emirates via Dubai.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)

TOUR MANAGER: Andrew Matheson

Andrew has explored Ireland on several visits, and has led many of our tours in Europe and other international destinations. He is an enthusiastic and adventurous traveller, keen to explore off the beaten track.

As tour manager Andrew applies his strong organisational skills to make sure the trip runs to plan and delivers the best for all tour members. He soaks up the history and culture of the areas he visits and seeks out unique local experiences. Andrew is looking forward to sharing the magic of the Emerald Isle with you.



DAILY ITINERARY

Sunday 25 August 2024

Auckland to Dublin

Meals: in flight

Overnight: in flight

Depart New Zealand for your Irish holiday. Please note that your flight is not included in the tour price. We will offer flight suggestions for a group departure for tour participants to travel with the tour manager to Ireland from Auckland.

Monday 26 August

Dublin

Meals: in flight/D

Overnight: Dublin

Arrive in Dublin, and after a brief look around this charming city check into your hotel located centrally on O'Connell Street. Take the chance to stretch your legs, maybe with a walk through Temple Bar or along the nearby River Liffey, then gather for a welcome dinner with your tour manager and fellow travellers.

Tuesday 27 August

Dublin

Meals: B

Overnight: Dublin

A full and varied day in Dublin awaits you.

A guided tour of Christ Church Cathedral will share the stories of the cathedral built almost 1,000 years ago by a Viking king. It's now an Anglican cathedral, but is also claimed as the seat of the Roman Catholic archbishops of Dublin. It contains the reputed tomb of Strongbow, a medieval peer and warlord who came to Ireland at the request of an Irish king, which marked the beginning of English involvement in Ireland.

No visit to Dublin is complete without a visit to the Guinness storehouse, built to house the fermentation process for this famous beverage. The core of the building is modelled on a giant pint glass. Your tour takes you step by step through the brewing process and finishes with a pint of Guinness while enjoying panoramic views over Dublin city.

Your evening is at leisure to explore the city. Your tour manager will be available and will have suggestions for dinner this evening.



DAILY ITINERARY

Wednesday 28 August

Dublin

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Dublin

Your second day exploring the Irish capital starts at Glasnevin Cemetery, established by legendary Irish statesman Daniel O'Connell in 1832. Key figures from Irish history and culture buried here include Michael Collins, Charles Stewart Parnell, Éamon de Valera, Countess Markievicz, Maud Gonne, Luke Kelly and Brendan Behan. The 50-hectare site features many ornate sculptures, Celtic crosses and formal gardens.

Then a guided tour of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland. An oasis of calm and beauty as well as a premier scientific institution, the gardens contain important collections of plants from all over the world and are famous for their restored historic glasshouses.

You will have some free time in the afternoon. Trinity College Library, one of the world's great collections, is currently closed for renovations. If it is open when you visit Dublin we will arrange an option to visit it during your free afternoon. The library houses treasures including the Book of Kells, the Brian Boru harp which is a national symbol of Ireland, and a copy of the 1916 proclamation of the Irish Republic.

This evening you will head out for dinner and a live show of live traditional Irish music, song and dance.

Thursday 29 August

Dublin - Wicklow - Kilkenny

Meals: B/D

Coach: 3 hours

Overnight: Kilkenny

Say farewell to Dublin and drive to Glendalough, famed for its beautiful scenery and historic monuments. This place has been a focus for pilgrims and visitors since its monastery was founded by St Kevin in the 6th century. Learn about this historic spot in the visitor centre before exploring the remain of one of the most famous religious centres in medieval Europe.

Then on to Kilkenny Castle, which has dominated the city and the southeast of Ireland for more than 800 years. You can explore this significant building at your own pace.

You will stay the next two nights in the city of Kilkenny, a cosmopolitan city with a mix of medieval architecture, modern shopping and an active arts, craft and design scene.

DAILY ITINERARY

Friday 30 August

Kilkenny

Meals: B

Overnight: Kilkenny

A local guide will take you on a walking tour of Kilkenny, which was one of the most important medieval Norman towns in Ireland.

In the afternoon you are free to continue exploring Kilkenny at your own pace. Dinner is at leisure tonight and there are lots of good restaurants and pubs, some with live music, to choose from.

Saturday 31 August

Kilkenny - Tipperary - Cork

Meals: B/D

Coach: 3 hours

Overnight: Cork

The first stop on the way to Cork is at the Rock of Cashel. Set on a dramatic outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale, this impressive cluster of medieval buildings is one of Ireland's most visited destinations. It was the seat of kings and bishops for 900 years and flourished until the early 17th century. Brian Ború was crowned here, and even St Patrick himself is said to have made a visit.

The next stop has history of a different sort. For nearly 200 years Jameson has been making whiskey near Cork. You will tour the original distillery with its old machinery, giant waterwheel and the largest pot still in the world. And there will be a tasting, of course.

From the distillery it's not far to Cork, your home for the next two nights,.

Sunday 1 September

Cork

Meals: B

Coach 2 hours

Overnight: Cork

Emigration is a central and sad part of Ireland's history, which will come to life at the Cobh Heritage Centre. In the century to 1950 more than 6 million people emigrated from Ireland, almost half through the historic port town of Cobh (pronounced 'cove'), making it the single most important port of emigration. The Titanic and the Lusitania are just two of the many ships that visited here. The heritage centre tells the story of Cobh's maritime traffic, from transportation to the colonies, through emigration to tourism in latter-day luxurious transatlantic liners.

Continue to Charles Fort, a massive star-shaped fort of the late 17th century that is one of the largest military structures in the country. Charles Fort has been associated with some of the most momentous events in Irish history, such as the Protestant/Catholic Williamite War in 1690 and the Irish civil war of the early 1920s.

You will visit the vibrant fishing village of Kinsale with its colourful streets and rich history, and have free time for an early dinner in one of Kinsale's excellent restaurants before returning to Cork.

DAILY ITINERARY

Monday 2 September

Cork – Killarney

Meals: B/D

Coach: 2 hours

Overnight: Killarney

On the way to Killarney you will visit Blarney Castle. This 15th-century fortress is now famous for one thing: the stone of the same name. If you kiss the famous Blarney Stone high up on the castle battlements, according to tradition you will be endowed with the gift of eloquence — 'the gift of the gab' as the locals call it. Give it a go!

The nearby Blarney Woollen Mills Store is housed in one of Ireland's oldest woollen mills, and here you can pick up Irish knitwear and other souvenirs.

After arriving in Killarney and checking into your hotel there will be free time to explore the town before joining the group for dinner.

Tuesday 3 September

Ring of Kerry

Meals: B/L

Coach: 4 hours with many stops

Overnight: Killarney

Hit the road and spend a full day touring the famous 'Ring of Kerry', a scenic drive around the Iveragh Peninsula. The scenery is magnificent. The 180-km route takes in rugged coastal landscapes, rural seaside villages, rolling green hills, sparkling lakes and waterfalls.

There will be plenty of stops to look and take photos. Lunch will be hearty pub fare in the village of Caherdaniel, an ideal stop for a pint of Guinness in the summer.

Return to Killarney for a free evening.



DAILY ITINERARY

Wednesday 4 September

Kerry – Clare – Galway

Meals: B/D

Coach: 4 hours

Overnight: Galway

Heading north you will cross the Shannon estuary on a short ferry journey from Kerry to Clare. If you're lucky, you might even catch a glimpse of the dolphins that in summer sometimes swim close to the ferry.

One of Ireland's favourite visitor experiences, the Cliffs of Moher tower over the rugged west Clare coast. You can walk the safe, paved pathways and view the incredible cliffs and take in spectacular vistas over the Atlantic Ocean and the Aran Islands (of knitwear fame). The cliffs' natural beauty has inspired artists, musicians and poets for generations, as well as absorbing scientists and geologists who are drawn by the unique landscape in which they sit.

En route to Galway you'll travel through the Burren, a national park that is famous for its lunar-like limestone landscape and unique flora. About 20 species of orchids grow wild here.

Thursday 5 September

Aran Islands

Meals: B

Ferry: 40 minutes each way

Overnight: Galway

Cross by ferry to the the largest of the Aran Islands, Inis Mór (Inishmore). Home to about 800 people who mostly speak Irish as their first language, the island is well known for spectacular rocky landscapes and insights into previous ways of life.

Start with a guided tour of the island including the stone fort ruins of Dún Aonghasa. Perilously perched on a sheer sea cliff defiantly facing the Atlantic Ocean, it is the largest of the prehistoric stone forts of the Aran Islands. When travelling around Inis Mór you will see its iconic landscape of flowing fields divided by winding stone walls.

You will have free time to explore the island before returning by ferry.



DAILY ITINERARY

Friday 6 September

Galway – Sligo

Meals: B/D

Coach: 3.5 hours

Overnight: Sligo

Take the scenic route along the Connemara coast. This landscape is a mixture of rivers, lakes, woodlands, meadowlands, rugged hills and dramatic mountains, and as you near the coast you'll come across a stunning unpolluted coastline of sandy beaches and blue waters.

Stop to visit Kylemore Abbey. Once a castle built as a private home, the building became home to a community of Benedictine nuns whose abbey in Belgium was destroyed in the First World War. After settling at Kylemore the Benedictine community opened a world renowned boarding school for girls and began restoring the Abbey, Gothic church and Victorian walled garden to their former glory.

Continue to Sligo.

Saturday 7 September

Sligo – Fermanagh – Derry

Meals: B/D

Coach: 2.5 hours

Overnight: Derry

Make a morning visit to the grave of the famous Irish poet William Butler Yeats. He chose for his final resting place the churchyard at Drumcliffe, with its stunning location in a former monastery at the foot of Benbulbin mountain.

Continue on to Derry via a stop at Belleek pottery, which has been using traditional handcrafted production processes since 1857.

There will be free time in Donegal town, with a chance to shop for Donegal tweed clothing, before arriving in Derry/Londonderry in Northern Ireland.



DAILY ITINERARY

Sunday 8 September

Derry

Meals: B

Overnight: Derry

Take a guided walking tour of Derry, the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland. The walls were built in the early 17th century to protect settlers from England and Scotland.

Confront the more recent history of this city — 'The Troubles' or civil rights movement — at the Museum of Free Derry. 'Bloody Sunday' in 1972 was a pivotal moment in the struggles.

The afternoon and evening are at your leisure.

Monday 9 September

Derry, Antrim, Belfast

Meals: B/D

Coach: 2.5 hours

Overnight: Belfast

Explore the North Antrim coast en route to Belfast. There will be time to stop at the famous Old Bushmills Distillery, and of course taste some whiskey.

The Giant's Causeway and surrounding coastline is the only UNESCO world heritage site in Northern Ireland. It's made of some 40,000 massive columns of basalt sticking out of the sea. The dramatic sight has inspired legends of giants striding over the sea to nearby Scotland. You will be able to see this remarkable geological feature up close and also learn more of the geology, wildlife and social history of the region at the new visitor centre.

Continue down the coast through villages of Carnlough, Cushendall and Cushendun to Belfast.



DAILY ITINERARY

Tuesday 10 September

Belfast

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Belfast

Hop in a classic black cab for a unique tour of Belfast. Your guide is someone who lived through The Troubles and now educates his passengers on these dark times in Northern Ireland's history. You will travel around the small streets, peace wall and housing estates, getting a unique perspective on those troubled times.

Spend the afternoon at 'Titanic Belfast', a world-leading exhibition located on the very docks where the ship was designed and built. It uses special effects, rides, full-scale reconstructions and interactive features to explore the Titanic story in a fresh and insightful way; from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her infamous maiden voyage and catastrophic demise. The journey goes beyond the aftermath of the sinking to the discovery of the wreck and continues into the present day with a live undersea exploration centre.

This evening you can celebrate and relive your Irish adventures with the group at your farewell dinner.

Wednesday 11 September Belfast, then onward flights

Meals: B

Overnight: N/A

A free day to enjoy Belfast before an evening transfer to the airport for your homebound flight to New Zealand, arriving Friday 13 September.

Or you might want to travel onwards in the UK or Europe. The Calder & Lawson Tours team will be happy to help with your plans.



HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure your place on the tour. When minimum numbers are reached the tour will become a 'confirmed departure' and your deposit will be non-refundable.

Click below to complete the online registration form, pay the \$1,000 deposit and your place in this tour is secured. Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from our website www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/ or call us and we will email or post one to you.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on our website www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz/forms/, on the back of the paper registration form or on the summary page when you complete an online registration.

There is a 1.5% surcharge if you pay by credit card.

