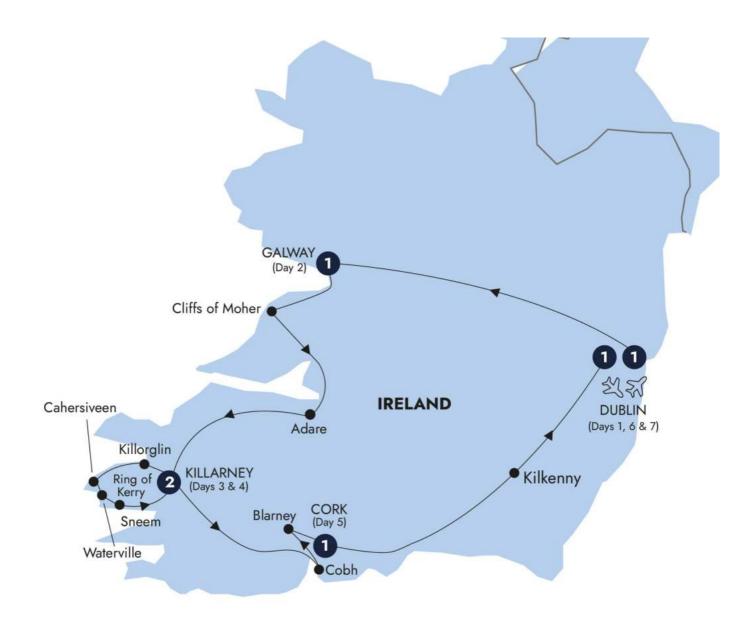
# **INSIGHT VACATIONS**

# Focus on Ireland





# KEY



#### Day 1 | In Dublin's Fair City



Meet your Travel Director at 14:00 for an orientation of Dublin. Pass the St. Patrick's Cathedral and Christchurch Cathedral. See the 9th century Book of Kells. Walk the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College. Enjoy a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner with drinks and the opportunity to mingle and get to know each other over the course of the evening.

#### Meals: Dinner

Hotel: Clayton Burlington Road, Dublin

Day 2 | To Galway, City of the Tribes



Leave Dublin and set off through the delightful landscapes of the Emerald Isle. Cross Ireland's longest river, the river Shannon, to reach historic Galway, the City of the Tribes, at the mouth of the Corrib River. Easily one of Ireland's most fun and lively cities, the streets are lined with buskers, the region is known for its famous oysters and the pubs are full of Irish charm. Join your Travel Director to see the Church of St. Nicholas, where Christopher Columbus reputedly prayed before setting off for his discovery of America. Also see the pre-medieval Spanish Arch and Eyre Square, dedicated to the late US President, John F. Kennedy.

# **Meals:** Breakfast **Hotel:** Harbour, Galway

# **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

*Galway Walking Tour -* The medieval streets of Galway are best explored with a native. Join our Local Expert for a stroll through history in this charming port city. Adult: 25.00 EUR

*Connemara - Life and Land -* This afternoon we drive into the rugged Connemara landscape, where we delve underground, to explore its geology, industry of bygone days and the traditions of life on the land today with Jess the Sheepdog and his beloved Master, Keith. Adult: 45.00 EUR

#### Day 3 | The Cliffs of Moher, Adare and Killarney

Take the scenic route through the mysterious rocky limestone landscape of the Burren, with its underground caverns, streams and rare flora. Stop at the Exhibition Centre, situated next to the 700-foot Cliffs of Moher with breathtaking views of the Clare Coast. Continue past the city of Limerick, stop in quaint Adare and take a relaxed village walk to see its thatched-roof cottages. In the evening, stay in the center of the action in lively Killarney. Gateway to the famous Ring of Kerry, Killarney has been welcoming travellers, who appreciate the spectacular scenery of woodlands and lakes, for over 250 years.

#### Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa

## **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

You will be offered one of the following two Optional Experiences depending on availability:

*Gaelic Roots -* The origins of Irish culture spring to life over a tour de force of traditional Irish song, music and dance at this Gaelic Roots show. Using traditional instruments, Irish dance and time-honoured folk songs, this energetic show will have you tapping your feet and singing along. You'll treasure experiencing the 2,000-year-old Gaelic culture over an evening out. Adult: 38.00 EUR

*Celtic Steps -* Enjoy a spectacular evening of Irish music, song and dance performed by champion dancers and musicians and showcasing the music of Kerry and beyond. Beginning with as Irish Classic, 'Siúil a Rún,' thought to have originated in the 1800's, the traditional Irish song tells a bittersweet tale of a woman lamenting her lover after his decision to embark on a military career. The performance then shifts to a series of fast and lively Irish reels with the introduction of the Celtic Steps Dance Troop followed by the waltz and energetic jig. Adult: 45.00 EUR

Day 4 | Ring of Kerry Experience



This morning enjoy an Insight Choice. Choose to join a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, admire incredible scenery on a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and past the grounds of Ross Castle, admiring the incredible scenery of the National Park. After, take a leisurely excursion around the magnificent Ring of Kerry with stunning views of mountains and sea. Pass through the small towns of Killorglin, where the famous Puck Fair takes place, and Cahersiveen, birthplace of the great patriot, Daniel O'Connell. Follow the narrow road as it winds along the cliffs to the fishing town of Waterville. Continue through delightful villages like Sneem and cross the peat bogs of the Black Mountains to Moll's Gap to admire Queen Victoria's Ladies View. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience during a Farm-to-Table dinner. Enjoy some Irish home cooking at the family-run kitchen of chef John Sheehan. Join John and his wife, Freda, for drinks and a personal insight into classic Irish recipes that are loved throughout the world and help preserve this intangible cultural heritage. Then, settle down for a night of great food and drink in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner **Hotel:** Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa

# **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

An Irish Pub Experience - Enjoy an exclusive Irish 'session' in the oldest pub in town, perhaps even pull your own pint! A local musician joins us this afternoon for music, song and a glimpse into Ireland's past. Enjoy this unique experience whilst sipping on a Whiskey or local draft beer.

Adult: 33.00 EUR

Day 5 | Cobh and Blarney Castle on the way to Cork



Drive to the historic port town of Cobh, which was the last port of call for the Titanic. Walk through the Queenstown Story exhibition at the Heritage Centre, which recounts the era of Irish emigration and the life of this once great passenger port. Continue to visit the 15th century Blarney Castle, home of the famous Stone of Eloquence - once kissed, never forgotten! Then Continue on to Cork along the spacious Grand Parade and South Mall and see the City Hall and fine Georgian houses en route to your hotel. In the evening, raise your glass and revel in rich flavours at a lively dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner **Hotel:** Maldron South Mall, Cork

## **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

A Tour of Cork's Inner City - Ireland's second city - "Rebel Cork" is one of Irelands Hidden Gems and dates back to the 7th century. This walking tour will encompass the development of the religious settlement of St. Finbarr, to Viking raiding & settlement, to the creation of the Norman city and Merchant Princes. View Shandon Steeple rich in history and folklore, walk the narrow laneways towards the city centre. Cross the North Channel of the river Lee. In the heart of the city surrounded by this braided river, hear the the tales and history of this port city and of it's place in the world. And enjoy hearing the lilt of the lovely Cork accent!

Adult: 24.00 EUR

Day 6 Kilkenny and Dublin



Drive through prime farmland to the medieval city of Kilkenny, with its majestic castle and river walk. Browse the medieval mile showcasing the hub of Ireland's arts and crafts scene along its narrow lanes. Then, return to Dublin and your hotel. The rest of the evening is at your leisure to further explore if you wish.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Clayton Burlington Road, Dublin

# **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

A Stroll Through The Marble City - Join Joseph, a proud Kilkenny man, for a stroll through time. See the grand 12th-century Castle and weave your way along the medieval mile, taking in the ancient 'slips', or laneways of this enchanting city of the Cats. Adult: 25.00 EUR

You will be offered one of the following two Optional Experiences depending on availability:

**Dublin Dinner and Drive -** We'll enjoy a scenic drive through the leafy outskirts of Dublin, continuing South along Dublin Bay, viewing the changing eras of architecture en route. Then, it's fine cuisine with a glass of wine in one of Dublin' **Executive South State** 

#### restaurants. Adult: 80.00 EUR

**Dublin Dinner and Cabaret -** Enjoy an evening of fine food and fun as Ireland's history unfolds with comedy, song and dance. You'll be tapping your toes and joining in the show, all in the spirit of Irish humour. And you'll even be served an Irish coffee to round off your dinner. Adult: 93.00 EUR

# Day 7 | Depart Dublin



Your memorable trip comes to an end.

Meals: Breakfast