



Ireland

Your Trip Name Here

With Your Name Here

Your Trip Dates Here

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Contact Devotion Travel at 310-857-5000
groups@devotiontravel.com to Custom Design your Group Trip.



View from Blarney Castle

Day 1: Depart USA

We depart from Phoenix, arriving at Shannon the next morning.

Day 2: Arrive Shannon

After arrival, you will travel through wonderful countryside to one of Ireland's great natural wonders, the **Cliffs of Moher**. On arrival enjoy a welcome breakfast and then marvel at the views from O'Brien's Tower. Then enjoy the karst-like landscape of the Burren as you travel to the early Christian site of Clonmacnoise. Founded by St. Ciarán in the mid-6th century, the site includes the ruins of a cathedral and seven churches (10th-13th century). Then relax or discover Athlone town before dinner at your hotel. Overnight in Athlone.

Day 3: Shannon/Killarney

After breakfast, visit a sheep farm where you will see a demonstration of how the sheep are rounded up and sheared before sampling homemade baking and refreshments. Feeling suitably refreshed, travel to one of the most complete castles in Ireland, **Bunratty Castle**. Built in 1425, it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendor. Within the grounds of Bunratty Castle is Bunratty Folk Park where 19th century life is vividly recreated on 26 acres with over 30 buildings in a 'living' village (complete with pub!). After lunch (not included), travel the short distance to Adare, one of Ireland's prettiest villages. Walk along the main street or visit the old priory and monastery before departing to Ireland's most popular town, Killarney. Overnight in Killarney.

Day 4: Killarney

Following breakfast, we travel the beautiful **Dingle Peninsula**. The town of Dingle is a small fishing port where you will find plenty of pubs, cafes and restaurants to have lunch (not included). The scenery west of the town is particularly rugged with views out to the formerly-inhabited Blasket Islands. Overnight in Killarney.

Day 5: Killarney

After breakfast, visit Cobh, the last port of call of the Titanic, where thousands of emigrants departed for a better life during the famine years. Then take the short journey to Middleton and the Old Jameson's Distillery, and learn how this world famous whiskey is made (and, of course, sample the golden nectar!). Then travel into Cork City and explore its many shops and the English Market. (Optional golf can be arranged at extra cost.) Overnight in Killarney.



Day 6: Killarney

Your jaunting car (horse & carriage) will take you on a magical trip through **Killarney National Park** to **Ross Castle**, a 15th century stronghold built by one of the O'Donoghue Ross chieftains. Your coach

then will take you on the **Ring of Kerry** where you will visit the Skellig Experience, which tells the story of the monks who lived on the barren islands off the coast. Travel through the colorful town of Sneem, Waterville and enjoy the magnificent views from Molls Gap and Ladies View. Overnight in Killarney.

Day 7: Waterford

After breakfast, travel to **Blarney Castle**, built nearly six hundred years ago by one of Ireland's greatest chieftains, Cormac MacCarthy. Here you can climb the ramparts of the castle and **kiss the famous stone** said to grant the gift of eloquence. Then relax as you travel along the south coast to Waterford, home of the world famous Waterford Crystal. Tour the **Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre**, and discover from the craftsmen who make it how this magnificent crystal is created. Overnight in Waterford.

Day 8: Dublin

Travel to New Ross and visit the replica of the Dunbrody, a famine ship that transported many immigrants to America and Canada during the famine years. Then to **Kilkenny** to tour its famous castle, built during the 12th century. After lunch (not included) continue to **Glendalough**, home to one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland. This early Christian monastic settlement was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century and from this developed the 'Monastic City'. Overnight in Dublin.

Day 9: Dublin

Enjoy a morning tour of Dublin which will include **Trinity College** and the **Book of Kells Exhibition**, St. Patrick's Cathedral and Guinness Storehouse. The afternoon will be free for further sightseeing, or shopping. Overnight in Dublin.

Day 10: Dublin

Discover the historic and **archaeological treasures** of the Boyne Valley, first visiting the ancient Celtic site of the Hill of Tara, then Trim and Kells Heritage Towns. **Trim's 12th Century Castle** is featured in the film Braveheart, and Kells is famous for its 8th Century monastic settlement, Book of Kells and **Celtic High Crosses**. We will also visit the 5000 year-old Megalithic tomb at Newgrange or Knowth. Overnight in Dublin.



Day 11: Flight Home

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and transfer to Dublin Airport for our flight back home, savoring the memories of our journey.

Scotland Add-On Optional Extension

Day 11: Flight to Edinburgh

Travelers continuing on to Scotland depart from Dublin for your flight to Glasgow. You then travel to Stirling. Historic Stirling — Scotland's heritage capital — is the ideal base to explore the nearby Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. Home to the famous Scottish folk hero and outlaw Rob Roy, this area is peppered with castles and tales of legendary figures and blessed with some of Scotland's most stunning scenery. Visit Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's most magnificent, erected on a rocky outcrop and commanding a view for miles around. The castle was built as an almost impregnable fortification but also an important and luxurious royal palace. Continue to the Trossachs National Park and enjoy a cruise on Loch Lomond. Overnight in Edinburgh.

Day 12: Edinburgh

Today take an Edinburgh City Tour. Edinburgh, the inspiring capital of Scotland, is a historic, cosmopolitan and cultured city. The setting is wonderfully striking; the city is perched on a series of extinct volcanoes and rocky crags which rise from the generally flat landscape of the Lothians, with the sheltered shoreline of the Firth of Forth to the north. **Edinburgh Castle** dominates the city-center skyline and from its ramparts you can look down on medieval lanes and elegant, sweeping terraces that hold over a thousand years of history and tradition. Yet you will also see a modern, dynamic capital where international festivals attract the world's leading performers, and bars, restaurants and clubs create a lively, cosmopolitan atmosphere with a distinctly Scottish twist. 'Edinburgh,' said writer Robert Louis Stevenson, 'is what Paris ought to be'. Visit Edinburgh Castle, the most famous of Scottish castles. The castle houses the Honours (Crown Jewels) of Scotland, the **Stone of Destiny**, the famous 15th century gun Mons Meg, the One O'Clock Gun and the National

War Museum of Scotland. Visit St. Giles Cathedral, the historic City Church of Edinburgh. With its famed crown spire it stands on the Royal Mile between Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Also known as the High Kirk of Edinburgh, it is the Mother Church of Presbyterianism and contains the Chapel of the Order of the Thistle (Scotland's chivalric company of knights headed by the Queen). In the afternoon visit The Palace of Holyrood, perhaps best known as the home of Mary, Queen of Scots. The Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Royal family's official residence in Scotland, stands at the end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile against the spectacular backdrop of Arthur's Seat, surrounded by the Holyrood Park. The Royal Apartments, where the Queen hosts State ceremonies and other official occasions, are infused with centuries of Scotland's rich history.



Enjoy dinner (not included) on your own. Overnight in Edinburgh.

Day 13: Edinburgh

Today enjoy a full day tour to Lindisfarne. Lindisfarne Priory was the original home of the Lindisfarne Gospels and was an important center of early Christianity. The Priory is located on Holy Island and is reached by a causeway at low tide. You can marvel at the ornate

carvings on the extensive ruins of the monastic buildings and enjoy the serenity that first drew the monks there. Continue back to Edinburgh via Kelso. Visit Kelso Abbey. Even in its fragmentary state this is a superb piece of architecture. Built in 1128 and the years following, Kelso Abbey was one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture. Finally finished, it was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and St. John in 1243. It was soon one of the largest and richest in Scotland, having a superb library in medieval times. Overnight in Edinburgh.

Day 14: Edinburgh

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and transfer to Edinburgh Airport for our flight back home after a delightful and uplifting journey.

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP: Round-trip group coach air from Phoenix Sky harbor; transfers on arrival and departure by private coach; sightseeing in luxury coach with professional driver/guide; hotel accommodation (double occupancy) with private facilities; daily breakfast, and special welcome Irish breakfast; hotel dinners as listed; entrance fees to listed attractions visited as a group. Lunches, other meals not listed, and optional golf are not included in trip cost.

