



IRELAND COMPACT TOUR

7 days/6 nights

SELF DRIVE



WHAT'S INCLUDED TODAY

- ✓ Plane ticket with RYANAIR (15:55 – 17:00)
- ✓ Arrival in Dublin and pick up the rental car
- ✓ Overnight at the Cassidy Hotel 3***

DAY 1 (Friday) DUBLIN Arrival in Ireland

Welcome to Ireland! After your flight to Ireland, you will arrive at the Airport in Dublin where you can pick up the rental car for your journey in the Republic of Ireland. Drive to the hotel and check-in. After registration, time at leisure. Rest of the evening free for private activities. If you need help to plan your evening, we will be very happy to help you. Overnight at the selected Hotel.



WHAT'S INCLUDED TODAY

- ✓ AM City Tour of Dublin
- ✓ Riverdance Show Tickets
- ✓ Overnight at the Cassidy Hotel 3****

DAY 2 (Saturday) DUBLIN Walking tour

Breakfast at the hotel. You will have today a walking tour in Dublin. Starting at the Daniel O'Connell statue on the bottom of O'Connell Street, come with us as we lead you on a journey through the cobbled streets of Dublin's past and present. From its birth in 988AD by Viking settlers to the famine and Ireland's uprising against the English right up to modern day Dublin, this tour has it all! Get an insight into our literary past, learn why Irish whiskey is better than its counterparts, and why Irish music is so popular worldwide. Put your finger on Dublin's pulse with us as we reveal you with insights and tidbits only known to locals. This tour is a combination of the good and bad – it's everything that makes Dublin the city it is today! Rest of the day at leisure, to discover the city on your own, go shopping or just relaxing at the hotel. Accommodation at the selected Hotel. **(B)**



WHAT'S INCLUDED TODAY

- ✓ Visit Clonmacnoise Monastery (ticket)
- ✓ Visit Kilbeggan Distillery
- ✓ Overnight at the Menlo Park Hotel 4****

DAY 3 (Sunday) DUBLIN – TRIM – AGHAMORE – CLONMACNOISE – GALWAY

Towards the west coast

Breakfast at the hotel. Early in the morning (best if you can leave at 08:00 am) drive towards west to discover this magnificent Irish region. Your first stop would be Trim (46Km, 53 min. drive), a designated heritage town, renowned as one of Ireland's most beautiful towns and is believed to have more medieval buildings than any town in Ireland. With Trim Castle on its doorstep, it's a town well worth a visit. Ireland's largest Anglo-Norman castle, Trim Castle is worth a visit if you're into history or just looking to enjoy Irish culture. This medieval castle is the biggest and best-preserved of its kind in Ireland. Once used as a set in the film Braveheart with Mel Gibson, it'll leave you awestruck. This magnificent site experienced a renaissance in 2000 when it was opened to the public after being excavated and restored. The central fortification is a monumental three-storey keep. This massive 20-sided tower, which is cruciform in shape, was all but impregnable in its day. It was protected by a ditch, curtain wall and water-filled moat. Access to the keep is by guided tour only for safety reasons. The castle is often called King John's Castle although when he visited the town he preferred to stay in his tent on the other side of the river. Richard II visited Trim in 1399 and left Prince Hal later Henry V as a prisoner in the castle.



Then continue to Kilbeggan (60Km, 47m drive), to your next adventure, the Kilbeggan Distillery. Visit starts at 01:00 pm. Kilbeggan is the oldest licensed distillery of its kind in Ireland. Founded in 1757, the distillery spent the next 200 years making a whiskey beloved the world over. So, when tough times ground its gears to a halt, the town came together to save the whiskey that built the town. It wasn't quick or easy, but they persevered. Today, every bottle produced stands as proof that the spirit of Kilbeggan never wavered. Explore Ireland's oldest licensed distillery on our Distillery Experience tour. Start your visit with a Kilbeggan Black & Ginger cocktail taster in your own wee dram glass which you can then take home. You will then be guided through our incredible history from 1757 to the present day, learn about our unique distillation process in our fully operational distillery and listen to the story behind our Ctesiphon Warehouse. Finish your distillery journey with a '4 Whiskey Master Class' in the old Cooperage. As on of you is driving, please ask the guide to pack your dram of whiskey that you can enjoy later at the hotel.

After your visit, continue driving to Clonmacnoise (41km, 36m) to visit its monastery. St Ciarán founded his monastery on the banks of the River Shannon in the 6th Century. The monastery flourished and became a great seat of learning, a University of its time with students from all over Europe. The ruins include a Cathedral, two round Towers, three high crosses, nine Churches and over 700 Early Christian graveslabs. The original high crosses, including the magnificent 10th century Cross of the Scriptures area are now on display in a purpose-built visitor centre adjacent the monastic enclosure. An audiovisual presentation will give you an insight into the history of this hallowed space. Please note that your tickets are all day tickets, and you can start visiting the monastery anytime. And finally, after a long driving day but full of emotions and new experiences, continue to Galway (80km 1h 3m drive). Overnight at the hotel. **(B)**



WHAT'S INCLUDED TODAY

- ✓ Full day tour to Aran Islands and Cliffs of Moher
- ✓ Overnight at the Menlo Park Hotel 4****

DAY 4 (Monday, September 08) GALWAY Aran Islands and Cliffs of Moher

Breakfast at the hotel. This tour starts at 9am from Kinlay Hostel on Merchants Road. While driving along Wild Atlantic Way, our fully trained driver / guide will explain the Burren's landscape to you. Driving past Irish villages of Kilcolgan, Clarenbridge, Kinvara, Ballindereen and Ballyvaughan, you will be amazed by these beautiful local community. As we keep heading towards the fishing village of Doolin, you will notice 16th century tower house castles, Medieval ruins, churches and graveyards, harbours and quays and farm animals! As we keep going, you will be able to see Black Head (Discovery Point on Wild Atlantic Way) and Fanore Strand (also a Discovery Point on Wild Atlantic Way). Have a look at the baby cliffs of Ballyreen and you will understand why this Atlantic Way is called the "Wild Atlantic Way". Next stop is Doolin the fishing village. You will take the ferry for Inisheer, the nearest and smallest of the 3 Aran Islands. Inishmore (Inis Mor), Inishmaan (Inis Meain) and Inisheer (Inis Oirr) lock in Galway Bay and are all limestone rocky outcrops.

When you are on the ferry, try to see if you can find the local bottlenose dolphin. They sometimes follow the ferry when they depart for the island. When you are on Inisheer, walk around and see the ancient castles and churches. You can explore the whole island on foot, or by hiring a bicycle or even a pony! On your return journey to Doolin, you will be taken on a fully guided scenic cruise beneath the Cliffs of Moher where you can get the best view of this Signature Point on Wild Atlantic Way. As the Irish put it "From the Cliffs you see the sea, but from the sea you see the Cliffs." Hop on our coach again when you are back in Doolin. Our driver / guide will now take to you the Cliffs of Moher for around 1 hour. Your entry ticket for the award-winning Cliffs of Moher visitor centre is included. Do a bit of hiking around the Cliffs of Moher and enjoy this amazing natural landscape. On our way back to Galway, you will see Lisdoonvarna, which is famous for its match-making festival. Overnight at the hotel. **(B)**



WHAT'S INCLUDED TODAY

- ✓ Visit the Dunguaire castle in Kinvara
- ✓ Overnight at the Grand Hotel Tralee 3***

DAY 5 (Tuesday) GALWAY – KINVARA - TRALEE

Breakfast at the hotel. Before you continue with your road trip, make a short visit to the Galway City, the capital of the west of Ireland and it's idyllic location on the edge of the Atlantic combined with the surrounding countryside provides a memorable setting for any holiday. With every possible variety of scenery and a multitude of things to see and do Galway is an essential part of any visit to the Ireland. Known as The City of Tribes Galway is a beautiful city located on the western seaboard of Ireland. So beautiful is it, that it was once described as the "Venice of the West" by well-known Irish poet, William Butler Yeats.

Galway is a vibrant colourful city, recognised worldwide for its friendly people and welcoming atmosphere. In recent decades Galway has emerged as the hub of Artistic, Modern and cosmopolitan energy in Ireland.

Then continue to Kinvara (40km, 42m south from Galway) to visit the Dunguaire Castle, a 16th-century tower house on the southeastern shore of Galway Bay in County Galway, near Kinvara. The name derives from the Dun (fort) of King Guaire, the legendary king of Connacht. The castle's 75-foot (23 m) tower and its defensive wall have been restored, and the grounds are open to tourists during the summer. Then drive to your next point of interest, the Burren National Park (21km 29m drive). Thanks to its unique landscape, superb views, and amazing hiking trails, Burren National Park is definitely worth visiting. It's among the best things to do in County Clare. The Burren is internationally famous for its rocky landscape, unusual combination of flora, thousands of archaeological sites and unique farming traditions. If you need more information before you start visiting the Burren, there is a visitor's center where you can see the highlights of the region.

Continue driving to Limerick City (57km 54m drive). Limerick is a city full of little "wows". First off, there's its location – right on the grey-blue gush of the River Shannon. Then, there's its history: from brutal sieges in the 17th century to the grand Georgian era of the 18th century, all of which is written into the town's streetscapes. And then there's its music, art and literature, from The Cranberries to Pulitzer prizewinning author Frank McCourt. This vibrant city is a place of tragedy and regeneration, of culture and "craic" (fun), of little secrets and famous locals. And it's a place that gets under your skin.

Finally, drive to Tralee to your hotel for the overnight (101km 1h33m). Tralee is the 8th largest urban settlement in Ireland and popular for their annual Rose of Tralle International Festival since 1959. You could walk around the town on foot. Tralee itself is a historic town with Georgian streets and a mix of modern buildings for a tourist, as well as its location among some of the most beautiful places in Ireland.



WHAT'S INCLUDED TODAY

- ✓ Overnight at the Point A Hotel Dublin Parnell Street 3***

DAY 6 (Wednesday) TRALEE – CORK – KILKENNY - DUBLIN

Breakfast at the hotel. After a good rest, drive back to Dublin. On the way, visit Cork, the second largest city in Ireland (113km, 1h 41m). The best way to explore Cork is to lace up your walking shoes and wander around the city on foot. Whether you want to check out the galleries or browse at a local market, most of the city's top attractions are all within walking distance of each other. Our suggestion is to start off in the English Market, for a walk around the various food stalls and a coffee from one of the café stands. A five-minute walk away is the Crawford Art Gallery, the city's premier repository of art. Inside the 18th Century building you'll find work spanning thousands of years, from Greek and Roman sculpture casts in the Turquoise Gallery to a selection of stained glass and watercolours by 20th Century Irish master Harry Clarke.

After you have seen Cork, continue driving to Kilkenny for a short break and to stretch your legs (156km 1h 48m). Kilkenny is a pretty medieval town in southeast Ireland known for its castle and old town. It's perfect for a quick visit to explore one of Ireland's most charming small cities. Kilkenny was the capital of Confederate Ireland between 1642 and 1649. The seat of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ossory and the Church of Ireland Bishop of Cashel and Ossory are in Kilkenny. Kilkenny is famous for its medieval building and castle. The town has been referred to as the "Marble City" for centuries. After this visit, continue your way back to Dublin (128km 1h 28m). Once in the city, drive directly to your hotel for check-in. Thereafter, you will have time at leisure for private activities. **(B)**



WHAT'S INCLUDED TODAY

- ✓ Return the rental car

DAY 7 (Thursday) DUBLIN

Breakfast at the hotel. Day at leisure for private activities and mainly to rest from the long journey behind you. Enjoy the city by walking on their old town, go shopping or visit one of the interesting museums in the city. At the given time, drive to the airport and return the rental car. Thereafter, go t

(B) Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner