



Best of Ireland

7 Night Self Drive Tour

Discover the very best of Ireland on this journey through its most iconic regions. From Dublin's lively streets and Cork's culinary charm to the dramatic landscapes of Kerry and the vibrant harbour city of Galway, this itinerary combines must-see sights with authentic local experiences. Explore historic castles such as Blarney Castle, enjoy scenic coastal drives, wander through charming towns, and experience traditional music and warm Irish hospitality - all at your own pace.

Highlights:

- Explore Dublin's historic streets, Trinity College and the Guinness Storehouse
- Drive through Ireland's picturesque countryside from east to west
- Visit Cork's famous English Market and nearby Blarney Castle
- Discover Killarney National Park and the scenic Ring of Kerry
- Admire the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher above the Atlantic Ocean
- Experience Galway's lively harbour, arts scene and traditional pubs
- Venture into the wild landscapes of Connemara National Park

What's included:

- Getting there: Direct flights to Dublin
- Transport: Car hire
- Accommodation: 7 nights total duration – 1 night Dublin, 1 night Cork, 2 nights Killarney, 2 nights Galway, 1 night Dublin
- Meals included: as per accommodation booked, most hotels will only offer room only or breakfast

Not included:

- Any meals (other than the one mentioned in the itinerary), drinks, tips, expenses of personal nature.
- Early/late check-in/out service at hotels (surcharge if requested)
- Optional excursion/tours
- Travel insurance

Full Itinerary

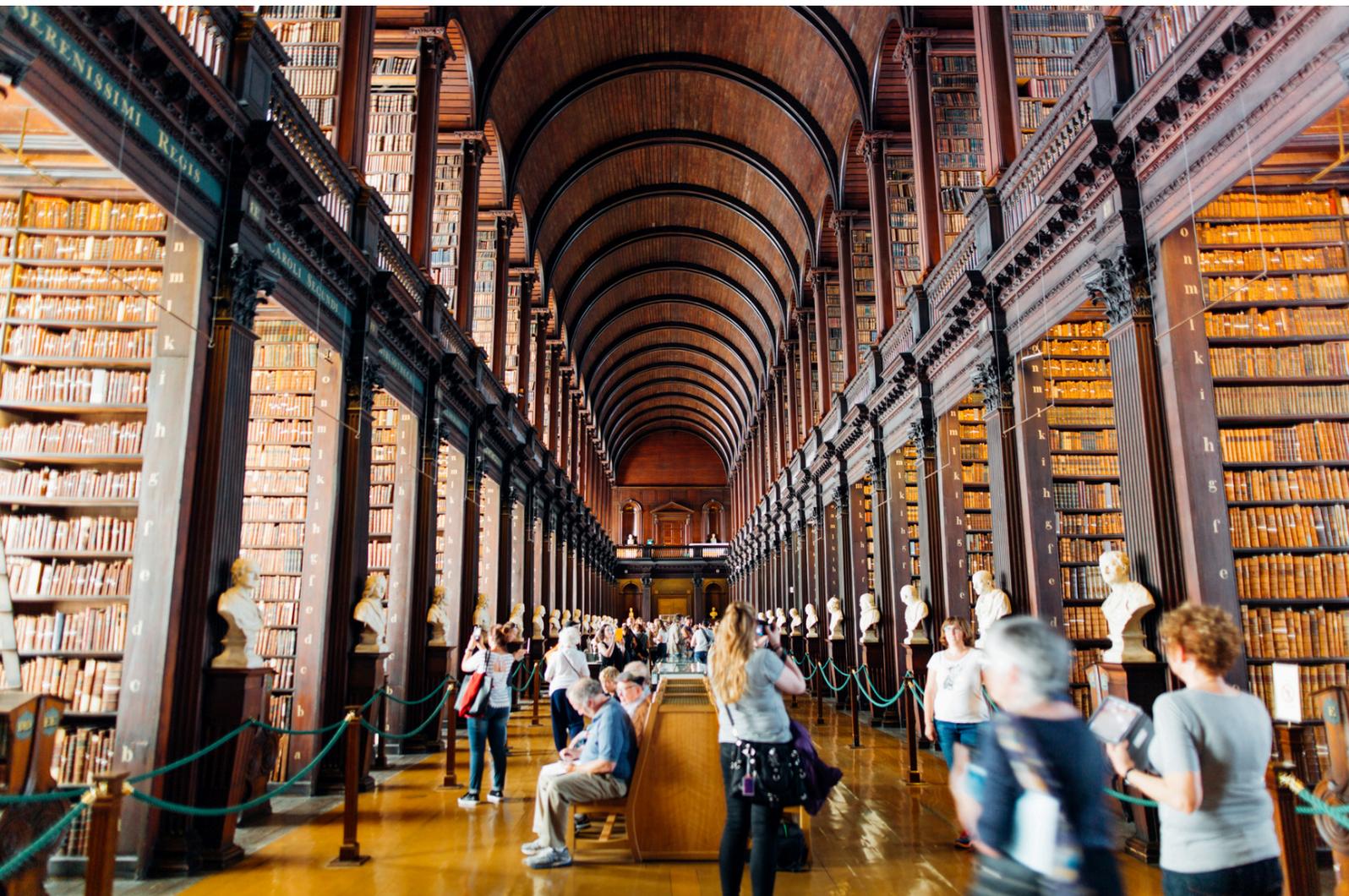
Day 1: Arrive in Dublin

Welcome to Ireland! After arriving at Dublin Airport, you'll collect your hire car and begin your Irish adventure. Depending on your arrival time, you may wish to drive directly to your hotel and take a short rest before heading out to explore.

Dublin is a walkable city, rich in history and buzzing with character. Spend your afternoon strolling along Grafton Street, visiting Trinity College to see the Book of Kells, or wandering through the lively Temple Bar district. For those interested in Ireland's most famous exports, the Guinness Storehouse and the Jameson Distillery offer engaging introductions to the country's brewing and whiskey-making traditions.

This evening, enjoy dinner in one of Dublin's traditional pubs or modern bistros, many of which feature live music.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* The Address Connolly, 4* The Mayson, 4* The Mont or similar



Day 2: Dublin to Cork

After breakfast, set off south towards Cork. The drive takes approximately three hours; enroute you may wish to pause in the medieval city of Kilkenny, where Kilkenny Castle and its surrounding gardens make a pleasant stop for a walk and lunch.

Arrive in Cork during the afternoon. Often referred to as Ireland's culinary capital, Cork is known for its friendly atmosphere and excellent local food scene. Visit the historic English Market, stroll along the River Lee, or take a short trip to nearby Blarney Castle to kiss the famous stone, if you're feeling brave.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* The Montenotte Hotel, 4* The Address Cork, 4* The River Lee Hotel or similar

DRIVING TIME: 3 hrs / 162 mi



Day 3: Cork to Killarney

This morning, continue west towards County Kerry, a region famed for its spectacular landscapes. The drive to Killarney takes around two hours and passes through charming rural scenery.

On arrival, settle into your accommodation before exploring Killarney National Park. Wander around the lakes, visit elegant Muckross House and Gardens, or simply enjoy one of the many gentle woodland walks. Killarney is also well known for its traditional music scene, and the town's pubs offer a warm welcome in the evening.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* Great Southern Killarney, 4* The Ross or similar

DRIVING TIME: 1 hr 15 min / 55 mi

Day 4: The Ring of Kerry

Today is dedicated to one of Ireland's most celebrated scenic drives. The Ring of Kerry winds through coastal villages, rugged mountains and sweeping Atlantic views. Stop at viewpoints such as Ladies View and Moll's Gap, explore colourful villages like Sneem, and admire the dramatic coastline along the Skellig Ring.

Take your time, stopping frequently for photographs, short walks and refreshments. Return to Killarney in the late afternoon, where the rest of the day is at leisure.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* Great Southern Killarney, 4* The Ross or similar



Day 5: Killarney to Galway

After breakfast, journey north towards Galway. The drive takes approximately three and a half hours. Along the way, a stop at the Cliffs of Moher is highly recommended. A short walk along the clifftop paths provides unforgettable views over the Atlantic Ocean.

Continue to Galway, a lively harbour city known for its arts scene, colourful shopfronts and friendly locals. Spend your evening wandering through the Latin Quarter, enjoying seafood restaurants, cosy pubs and street performers.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* The Harbour Hotel, 4* The Galmont Hotel & Spa, 5* The G Hotel & Spa or similar

DRIVING TIME: 2 hrs 50 min / 134 mi



Day 6: Galway and Connemara

Today is free to explore Galway and its beautiful surroundings. You may wish to drive into Connemara, a wild and unspoilt region of mountains, lakes and open bogland. Connemara National Park offers easy walking trails and breathtaking scenery.

Alternatively, stay in Galway to browse craft shops, visit small museums, or relax in one of the city's excellent cafes.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* The Harbour Hotel, 4* The Galmont Hotel & Spa, 5* The G Hotel & Spa or similar

DRIVING TIME: 2 hrs 50 min / 134 mi

Day 7: Galway to Dublin

After breakfast, leave Galway and drive east across Ireland back to Dublin.

On arrival in Dublin, check into your hotel and enjoy a final afternoon at leisure. This is an ideal opportunity for any sightseeing you may have missed at the start of your trip - perhaps a visit to Dublin Castle, a stroll through St Stephen's Green, or some last-minute shopping along Grafton Street.

In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner in one of Dublin's excellent restaurants or settle into a traditional pub for a final night of Irish hospitality and music.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* The Address Connolly, 4* The Mayson, 4* The Mont or similar

DRIVING TIME: 2 hrs 25 min / 128 mi



Day 8: Departure from Dublin

After breakfast, drive to Dublin Airport, allowing time to return your hire car and check in for your flight home. Depart Ireland with lasting memories of dramatic landscapes, welcoming towns and lively culture.

FAQs

BEST TIME TO TRAVEL

The best time to visit Ireland is from May to September, when the weather is mild and daylight hours are long - perfect for scenic drives and sightseeing. Late spring (May–June) offers fewer crowds and blooming landscapes, while July and August provide the warmest weather and vibrant atmosphere, ideal for exploring towns, castles, and coastal scenery.

CAR HIRE

Please note that to rent a car, the lead driver must have a credit card in their name; debit cards are only accepted in some cases. GPS is automatically included when available; otherwise, it can be confirmed and paid for locally. We will advise at the time of booking whether GPS is included.

An excess may apply to car rentals in Ireland, and this will be confirmed when you book. You may wish to include rental car excess cover in your travel insurance policy, or speak to one of our team about an additional policy that can be added to your holiday.

MAPS

Your car hire will have a GPS included where possible so you can find your way; physical driving instructions are not included, to give you the flexibility to stop and change route at any time.

VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

British passport holders do not require a visa to enter Ireland. Please visit the FCDO website for more information.

Please note that there are no mandatory vaccinations required to enter Ireland. However, we recommend consulting your GP or a travel health clinic before you travel to ensure your routine vaccinations are up to date and to receive any personalised health advice.