



ERIN GO BRAGH

(Translation: Ireland Forever)

JOIN OUR IRELAND TOUR IN 2019



ITINERARY

Aug 2 Arrive in Dublin and transfer to airport hotel on your own. Dinner on your own.



Aug. 3 Breakfast on your own. Meet your driver/guide and travel to Skerries Mill. Then see Winterfell Castle where you will enjoy a *Game of Thrones* themed lunch and tour, including a unique archery experience. Continue to Belfast, settle in your hotel, and enjoy dinner in the Causerie Restaurant. Approximate driving time today 3.5 hours.

Aug. 4 Spend this morning on a tour of Belfast to learn about the history of the troubles; the murals around the city commemorate some of the tragic events. Then travel to the Titanic Belfast exhibition which was opened in 2012 to mark the centenary of the great ship's demise and located on the docks where the ship was built. Enjoy afternoon tea in the opulent surroundings of the Titanic Suite, before heading to the nearby SS Nomadic. Find out about her link to the Titanic, as well as her own history. This evening **dine independently** if you have any room left after your decadent afternoon tea. Approximate driving time today 1 hour.



Aug. 5 Head to the city of Derry/Londonderry but not before taking in the fantastic scenery of the Antrim Coast along the way. This route will take you past such attractions as The Dark Hedges in Ballymoney - made famous by *Game of Thrones*, the famous Giant's Causeway and the village of Bushmills, where you will take a tour of the old Bushmills distillery. Arrive in Derry/Londonderry for a tour that includes a stroll along the city walls with stops to point out and tell stories of The Bogside, The Peoples Gallery (Murals), The Bloody Sunday Story, The History of the Apprentice Boys and The Marching Season Traditions. **Dine independently.** Approximate driving time today 3.5 hours.



Aug. 6 Depart Derry and pay a visit to Belleek Pottery, where a guided tour covers all of the production areas offering you the opportunity to meet the craftspeople. The onsite museum contains pieces dating back to when the pottery was started in 1857. Then visit Strokestown Park House - a grand mansion with its original furnishings and fabrics gaining insight into life in the "Big House" both "upstairs and downstairs," while also on the same grounds the Irish National Famine Museum tells a different story and highlights a tragic chapter of Irish History. Continuing to lively Galway City where you will enjoy dinner at your hotel. Approximate driving time today 5 hours.



Aug. 7 Travel into the beautiful countryside of Connemara. Visit Kylemore Abbey and spend sometime exploring the town of Clifden. Drive along the Sky Road for the spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean. Return to Galway early enough to spend some time exploring this medieval and colorful city. **Dine independently**, possibly on a

simple meal of fish and chips from the famous McDonough's take away eaten with your choice of tipple from the pubs across the road. Galway is a hot spot for music with live music every night of the week. Approximate driving time today 4 hours.

Aug. 8 Travel through the Burren Region - Ireland's largest expanse of karst landscape - to the Cliffs of Moher. Take some time to marvel at this amazing natural formation of cliffs towering over the Atlantic Ocean before continuing on to the village of Bunratty. Settle into your hotel before visiting the Castle and 19th Century Folk Park which recreates life in Ireland at the end of the 19th Century. In the evening return to Bunratty Castle for your Medieval Banquet. Approximate driving time today 2.5 hours.



Aug 9 Head in to Limerick, where you will visit the gem in this Viking city's crown, the formidable 13th century King John's Castle. In the Castle courtyard, you will discover a medieval campaign tent, a blacksmith's forge and scenes from a 17th Century siege. Stop for lunch in Adare, the prettiest village in Ireland with its flower-filled gardens and thatched cottages. From here it's on to Foynes Flying Boat Museum before making your way to Killarney. This evening you will enjoy a fabulous night of food, music and dance at the Gaelic Roots Show. Approximate driving time today 3 hours.

Aug. 10 Tour the famous Ring of Kerry. Drive through Molls Gap and Kissane, where you can enjoy a sheep-dog demonstration at Kissane Sheep Farm. See the stunning views over the Lakes of Killarney and stop to take a tour of Muckross House & Gardens. Dinner this evening will be in your hotel in the Castlelough Restaurant. Approximate driving time today 4 hours.



Aug. 11 Travel to County Cork and make your way to the magnificent 12th century Blarney Castle. The famous stone is located at the top of the Castle however kissing is not compulsory! Take some time to stroll in the grounds and visit the nearby Blarney Woolen Mills before continuing along the Copper Coast with its panoramic seascapes, cliffs, bays and coves. This evening will see you dining in your hotel in Waterford. Approximate driving time today 5 hours.

Aug. 12 Enjoy a walking tour of Waterford's Historic Quarter Reginald's Tower; Greyfriars Medieval Franciscan Friary; Choristers' Hall; the Mayor's Wine Vault; the Bishop's Palace; and, if there is not a church service in progress, Christ Church Cathedral. Then pay a visit to the Waterford Crystal visitor centre, where nothing compares with the atmosphere of the blowing room. The heady mix of heat, noise and bustling activity makes this experience all the more breath-taking as you edge closer to the 1300°C furnace. Later, visit the Dunbrody Emigrant Ship in New Ross which is a replica of the famine ships that departed Ireland during the 1800s. Return to Waterford in time to explore this fantastic Viking city. **Dine independently**, perhaps this evening opting for Ireland's famous "pub grub." Approximate travel time today 1 hour.



Aug. 13 Make your way to the Rock of Cashel, a spectacular group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale where the Kings of Munster were crowned. Take in the expansive views from the hilltop, then enjoy a lunch stop at Newbridge Silverware and Style Icons Museum (entry to the museum is optional - a nominal fee is charged). Next is the Irish National Stud Farm and Japanese Gardens. You can also visit their Horse Museum and St.

Fiachra's Garden if you wish. Continue to Dublin and settle in to your hotel. This evening will find you in Ireland's oldest pub - The Brazen Head - for an evening of food, folklore and fairytales. Approximate driving time today 3.5 to 4 hours.

Aug. 14 Time to explore Ireland's Capital City. First stop is the Guinness Storehouse where you can learn about the famous Black Stuff. Then pay a visit to St Patrick's Cathedral, where you will find Jonathan Swift's grave. After lunch, make your way to Trinity College and the Book of Kells. This evening you will be dropped at your convention hotels. Approximate driving time today: 1 hour



INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

- 11 nights in superior hotels, applicable taxes, service charges, and taxes.
- 11 breakfasts; one lunch; one afternoon tea; 7 dinners, including the medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle.
- Sightseeing in an air-conditioned motor coach, with local guides where applicable.
- Convention hotel drop-off.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

- **AIR FARE**, airport taxes (where applicable), baggage fees.
- Any lunches and dinners not included in the itinerary.
- Personal items and souvenirs.
- All tips.

RATES

Tour: **\$3738 per person**

Single Supplement: \$788 per person

Air fare not included.

CONTACT US

If you are interested in taking our tour, want to be added to our email list, or have any questions, please call (858) 292-4363 or email us at val-ron@ontell.org. Please include the following:

- Names of everyone in your party (please indicate any children)
- Address(es)
- Phone number(s)
- Email address(es)

DISCLAIMER

Pricing is based on 2019 rates and could change depending on the number of people who go, exchange rates, price changes, and other factors. We will need a minimum of **24** people to run the tour, so once we reach that number of

deposits it will be a go. Deposits will be held until we are a go and then processed. We will accept tour signups as long as we have space available.

ABOUT US

We are fans who have been running tours in connection with Worldcons since 1987, when Ron was the official travel agent for the con (as he was again in 1988). Our past tours have included Britain, Ireland, Australia, Japan, and Scandinavia/St. Petersburg. If you wish additional information, please contact us.

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This tour has no formal association with Dublin 2019, An Irish Worldcon and is not endorsed by them.

We will also be offering a tour of New Zealand in 2020. Keep checking our website