



IRELAND: SPLENDOURS OF THE EMERALD ISLE - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2024)

Revel in the finest traditions of Irish hospitality
on this indulgent luxury journey through Ireland.

Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Europe, Ireland



9 days from AU\$13,375 pp



18 Guests

Journey Overview

Revel in the legendary hospitality and warmth of the Irish people on this comprehensive journey across the Emerald Isle. Take in world-famous scenic backdrops, bask in traditional songs and stories, and celebrate a culture cherished on both sides of the Atlantic, staying in five-star hotels along the way.

Journey Highlights

- Explore Dublin, Ireland's historic capital city, on a day that includes an intimate guided walk through Trinity College and an up-close look at the illuminated Book of Kells
- Visit a country pub in County Kilkenny for an introduction to Irish culture, including a hands-on hurling lesson
- Immerse yourself in authentic rural life on a farm visit, conversing with a local family over a farmhouse lunch
- Explore stunning landscapes and traditional crafts on a journey around the Ring of Kerry
- Venture along the scenic coast of County Clare to taste oysters and gaze out from atop the soaring Cliffs of Moher



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Dublin, Ireland

Arrive in Dublin, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight, gather for a welcome dinner.

Anantara The Marker Dublin Hotel | Meals: D

Day 2: Dublin | Viewing the Book of Kells

Begin with a privately led exploration of Trinity College, founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I. View the legendary Book of Kells, one of the finest illuminated medieval manuscripts in existence. Discover more of the city with your expert guide, followed by an afternoon at leisure.

Anantara The Marker Dublin Hotel | Meals: B

Day 3: Kilkenny | Countryside Traditions

Travel south to the heart of County Kilkenny. Visit a family-owned country pub, meet the owner and his family, and receive a hands-on introduction to the national Irish sport of hurling. Listen to a *seannachi* (traditional storyteller) spin tales and play music, eat a hearty lunch and learn how to pull a pint of Guinness for a full-on classic Irish pub experience. Arrive at your country resort at Castlemartyr before dinner.

Castlemartyr Resort | Meals: BLD

Day 4: Cobh & Cork | Design Your Day

Today, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- **Sample Classic Irish Whiskeys** on a premium tour and tasting at Jameson's Old Middleton Distillery.
- **Play a Round of Golf or Relax with a Spa Experience**, taking full advantage of your hotel's diverse amenities.
- **Visit the Cobh Heritage Centre** to learn about the lives of emigrants to America and visit the English Market in Cork.

Later, dine at Ballymaloe House, one of Ireland's culinary treasures, for a delectable Chef's Table experience.

Castlemartyr Resort | Meals: BD

Day 5: West Cork | An Inviting Farm-to-Table Experience

Drive Ireland's wild southern shore through rugged West Cork to meet a sixth-generation Irish storyteller and join this colourful raconteur for a ferry ride to Whiddy Island. Listen as he leads you on a personally narrated tour of the island and its history, and then stop at a traditional pub for lunch and a pint before ferrying back to the mainland. Proceed to Kenmare and check in to your hotel, set beside rollicking Sheen Falls. Then, savour a Scenic Sundowner, gazing over the sparkling cascades.

Sheen Falls Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Kenmare | Around the Ring of Kerry

Cross through Killarney National Park en route to the town of Killarney. Ride Like a Local in a traditional jaunting car for a closer look at the park's natural beauty. Then, set out on the famed Ring of Kerry for a breathtaking coastal drive, where every turn in the road reveals new and ever-more-stunning vistas. Pause to peruse local handicrafts in the Gap of Dunloe, a ruggedly beautiful valley formed by glaciers and set between two mountain ranges.

Sheen Falls Lodge | Meals: B

Day 7: Newmarket-on-Fergus | Lunch with a Farm Family

Make a personal connection to Ireland when you visit a traditional family dairy farm. Hear about rural life here from family members, and then join them for a home-cooked farm lunch, on this A&K-exclusive experience. Stop in Adare, often voted Ireland's most beautiful village, before you continue to your majestic hotel.

Dromoland Castle | Meals: BL

Day 8: Newmarket-on-Fergus | The Tastes of Galway Bay

Journey to busy Galway, gateway to western Ireland, and then on to small, coastal Clarinbridge, where a special tasting introduces you to the quintessential pairing of Guinness stout with fresh Galway Bay oysters. After lunch, drive the coast of County Clare, stopping to stand atop the soaring Cliffs of Moher. Tonight, join your fellow guests for an elegant farewell dinner.

Dromoland Castle | Meals: BLD

Day 9: Depart Shannon

After breakfast, transfer to Shannon Airport and board your onward flight.

Meals: B

Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 5:30 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 8.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Your Choice of Activity on Design Your Day
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

Customise this Journey

Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

Map



Accommodation

Dromoland Castle



Experience the royal treatment at one of Ireland's finest hotels, Dromoland Castle. Built in the 16th century, it was once the home of the O'Brian family, direct descendants of Brian Boru, one of the last High Kings of Ireland.

Dromoland Castle gives you a warm Irish welcome and the highest level of service. Gastronomes will revel in the incredible award-winning cuisine served by Executive Head Chef David McCann, who has been impressing guests for over 20 years with his elegant and delicious cooking. Scouring the countryside for the finest artisan producers and growers, his menus are a roll call of Ireland's very best ingredients. Leisure opportunities abound, relax in the intimate spa, stroll through the breathtaking scenery surrounding the hotel, tee off on the world class golf course, have a clay shooting lesson or indulge in one of the other many activities Dromoland Castle offers. A stay at Dromoland delivers a fairy tale experience you will never forget.

Castlemartyr Resort



The world-class luxury award-winning Castlemartyr Resort has been magnificently restored and elegantly enhanced to offer 103 guest rooms and suites, far-reaching countryside views, a stylish spa centre which includes an indoor swimming pool, 10 treatment rooms and a fitness studio.

Fine linens, luxurious soft furnishings and quality amenities are the hallmark of each guest room and self-catering at this five star resort where every modern comfort and convenience awaits you. All the rooms & suites are generously proportioned and range from a very generous 500 sq ft to an enormous 3,000 sq ft.

The award-winning restaurant *The Bell Tower*, offers gourmet dining as well as a traditional afternoon tea menu including Smoked Salmon on Irish Soda Bread and home-made scones, baked with fresh, locally sourced produce.

The Spa at Castlemartyr Resort has 10 treatment rooms. Services include deep-tissue massages, hot stone massages, sports massages, and Thai massages. The spa is equipped with a sauna, a spa tub, and a steam room.

You will find a relaxing and luxurious retreat in which to enjoy the splendours of this magnificent hotel.

Why we like it:

- Each room is equipped to the highest standard to help make your stay in East Cork a wonderful, relaxing experience
- Hotel Castlemartyr Resort features a spa which offers a variety of treatments as well as a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, and steam room

- The Castlemartyr Resort includes an 18-hole, link-style golf course. Fitness, pilates and yoga lessons on the site

Sheen Falls Lodge



Unique and luxurious, the 300-acre Sheen Falls Estate is one of Ireland's leading 5 star hotels. You are never more than a hop, skip and jump from a plethora of exciting outdoor activities. Do as little, or as much as you want. Enjoy the beauty of the surroundings, from heather-covered mountains to cascading waterfalls.

If the Estate's enchanting surroundings and the cascading waters of Sheen Falls haven't worked their therapeutic magic, then a visit to Easanna Wellness & Spa certainly will. Guests may unwind with a range of spa treatments.

Home-smoked salmon caught on the estate, seafood from Castletownbere and organic vegetables from suppliers are just down the lane. Sheen Falls Lodge is home to one of the finest Kenmare restaurants; perhaps even the best restaurants in Ireland, awarded 2 AA rosettes, The Falls restaurant serves sumptuous cuisine, with panoramic views overlooking the bay and Sheen Waterfalls. Guest may also relax in the Sun lounge and cocktail bar.

All of the rooms are elegant and spacious, with ensuite facilities, a TV and striking views of Kenmare Bay and the cascading Sheen waterfalls. Free Wi-Fi internet access is available in the hotel.

Sheen Falls Lodge estate boasts estate activities, including salmon fishing on the Sheen River, golf, tennis and nearby horse riding and walking.

Why we like it:

- Set amidst 300 acres of magnificent woodland and waterfalls, Sheen Falls Lodge is a luxurious 5-star hotel near Kenmare Bay, 1.6 km from picturesque Kenmare in County

Kerry

- The luxurious Health Club at Sheen Falls Lodge boasts facilities, including a spa bath, indoor heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room and contemporary gym
- From the journey: Patagonia: The Last Wilderness

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Sep 6, 2024 - Sep 14, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$13,840 pp	AU\$5,070	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 13, 2024 - Sep 21, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$13,840 pp	AU\$5,070	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Sep 27, 2024 - Oct 5, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$13,840 pp	AU\$5,070	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Oct 4, 2024 - Oct 12, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$13,375 pp	AU\$4,610	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Oct 11, 2024 - Oct 19, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$13,375 pp	AU\$4,610	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Oct 18, 2024 - Oct 26, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$13,375 pp	AU\$4,610	AU\$0	Call for Availability

Abercrombie & Kent

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