

Castles & Legends of Ireland

May 14th – 25th, 2025



This fully escorted twelve-day, coast to coast luxury tour is designed to offer you the perfect balance of castle hotels and unique experiences with Irish culture. Ample downtime allows you to relax, unwind and explore the beautiful countryside. This trip is escorted by an expert Irish tour leader ready to advise, inform and tell you many of the legends of the Emerald Isle. Experience the warmth of true Irish hospitality on your castle stay evenings. Stroll the beautiful, extensive grounds of each country manor, meet the friendly locals, hear their history, and witness the timeless historic landscape and its legendary shades of green.

Some Highlights:

- Fully escorted by Irish Guide
- Eight Night Stays in Castle Hotels
- Twenty Meals
- Kylemore Abbey & Gardens
- Cliffs of Moher
- Sheepdog Demonstration
- Ring of Kerry
- Enjoy Irish Dancers
- Watch cutting of Irish Crystal
- Experience a Loom Demonstration
- Private Lunch, Curraghmore House
- Old Midleton Distillery
- Belleek Pottery Tour
- Guinness Storehouse
- Blarney Castle
- Blarney Woolen Mills
- Tour of Christ Church Cathedral

Lodging:

- Gresham Riu Plaza (Two nights)
- Kilkenny River Court Hotel (two nights)
- Lough Eske Castle Hotel (two nights)
- Great Southern Castle Hotel (two nights)
- Glenlo Abbey Estate Hotel (two nights)

Inclusions:

Luggage handling and Gratuities for Tour director, Guides, Driver and included meals. (\$200 value)

\$4995 Per Person Double (Plus Air)
\$6395 Per Person Single (Plus Air)

Travel Protection

\$360 pp dbl
\$460 pp sgl

All Credit Cards Accepted

Day One, Wednesday, May 14, 2025: Depart Home.

Depart for your overseas flight to Dublin. While on board your overnight flight, you will have both dinner and breakfast included before touching down in Ireland. **(Dinner on plane)**

Day Two, Thursday, May 15, 2025: Kilkenny River Court Hotel.

Upon arrival in Dublin, your tour director will assist you through customs and introduce us to our Driver/Guide who will be with us for the next ten days. After departing the airport, we will visit St. Patrick's Cathedral and then transfer to the town of Kilkenny and check into the Beautiful Kilkenny River Court Hotel. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner reception with your fellow travelers. **(Breakfast on plane, Lunch, Dinner)**

Day Three, Friday, May 16, 2025: Kilkenny River Court Hotel.



Today's feature is a private lunch and guided tour hosted by the family of the Marquess of Waterford. Their home, the Curraghmore House, is the historic home of the 9th Marquis of Waterford. **(Breakfast & Lunch)**

Day Four, Saturday, May 17, 2025: Great Southern Castle Hotel

A visit to the Blarney Woolen Mills for shopping is followed by Blarney Castle where legend has it that kissing the Blarney Stone will make you "Eloquent". Next, we visit Old Midleton Distillery for tour and Irish whiskey tasting before passing over the Cork/Kerry Mountains on our way to Killarney. Tonight's stay is the **Great Southern Hotel**. **(Breakfast & Dinner)**



Day Five, Sunday, May 18, 2025: Great Southern Castle Hotel

Depart for the "Ring of Kerry" to soak in the majestic views and an entertaining and educational sheep dog demonstration. This winding coastal road through a mountainous, lake-spattered region is undeniably scenic and has brought visitors since Victorian times to this reminiscent chunk of the Emerald Isle. Today's lunch is a wonderful little restaurant on the sea famous for their fresh seafood chowder. **(Breakfast, Lunch)**



Day Six, Monday, May 19, 2025: Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate.

Depart for Connemara with a stop along the Wild Atlantic Way through the Burren to the famous Cliffs of Moher. One of Ireland's favorite visitor experiences, the Cliffs of Moher tower over the rugged west Clare coast. Walk the safe, paved pathways and view the incredible Cliffs that sit on Europe's most westerly tip and enjoy the spectacular vistas over the Atlantic Ocean and the Aran Islands. Their natural



beauty has inspired artists, musicians, and poets for generations, as well as absorbing scientists and geologists, drawn by the unique landscape in which they sit. The next two nights we experience the "Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate". ***(Breakfast & Dinner)***

Day Seven, Tuesday, May 20, 2025: Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate.

This morning spend time enjoying the grounds of Glenlo Abbey, then depart for Galway City, known as the **City of the Tribes**. Take a ramble down Quay Street with its many great pubs and shops. On our return to the estate, we will visit "**Celtic Crystal**"



which has been creating Celtic Designs and Gaelic Motifs into its ornate Irish Crystal. A personal lead crystal cutting demonstration is also included! This evening dinner will be in the Pullman Cars at Glenlo. ***(Breakfast & Dinner)***



Day Eight, Wednesday, May 21, 2025: Lough Eske Castle Hotel



Today's highlight is Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Garden. The story of Kylemore – both Castle and Abbey – is a truly remarkable one. The twists of fate which its occupants experienced, from moments of romance and happiness, to sadness and courage have all combined to create a fascinating history spanning over 150 years. Kylemore is home to a community of nuns of the Benedictine Order who came here in 1920 after their abbey in Ypres, Belgium

was destroyed in World War I. Settling at Kylemore, the Benedictine Community opened a world-renowned boarding school for girls and began restoring the Abbey, Gothic Church and Victorian Walled Garden to their former glory. Departing Kylemore we travel to Donegal and check into the Lough Eske Castle Hotel for a two-night stay. This Castle Hotel has been featured in Travel & Lesure magazine as one of the top places in the world to stay. ***(Breakfast & Dinner)***

Day Nine, Thursday, May 22, 2025: Lough Eske Hotel

Take time to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the castle! Today we also enjoy a cruise of Donegal Bay and experience a “Loom” demonstration complete with Irish Coffee. Tonight, another fantastic castle dinner at the award winning five-star Lough Eske Castle Hotel. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**



Day Ten, Friday, May 23, 2025: Gresham Riu Hotel on O’Connell Street, Dublin

This morning enjoy a guided tour of Belleek which is an Irish pottery that has been produced for over 150 years. After Belleek we will enjoy a drive through the Irish countryside on our way to Dublin where we will enjoy our last two nights. **(Breakfast)**

Day Eleven, Saturday, May 24, 2025: Gresham Riu Hotel on O’Connell Street, Dublin

The morning tour of Dublin will include Christ Church, O’Connell Street, Phoenix Park and more. No visit to Dublin is complete without a tour of **Guinness!** The Storehouse was originally built in 1904 to house the Guinness fermentation process. The core of the building is modelled on a giant pint glass. The tour takes you step by step through the brewing process, finishing at the Gravity Bar where you will receive a complimentary pint of Guinness whilst enjoying the panoramic views over Dublin city. Tonight’s farewell dinner is an evening of Irish music, dance & food at the Merry Ploughboy Pub. Widely regarded as the best traditional music show in Dublin, this highly entertaining performance of live traditional Irish Music, Song and Dance is the perfect way to complete your tour. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**



Day Twelve, Sunday, May 25, 2025: Depart for home.