

Gems of Ireland

DAY 1 Depart to Dublin

Today: Depart for Dublin with complimentary meals and beverages served onboard your international flight.

DAY 2 Arrival to Dublin

Arriving in Dublin. Meet Guide and driver. Our panoramic city sightseeing tour includes all the highlights of Dublin city – O’Connell Street, Trinity College, Georgian Squares, Government Buildings, Dublin Castle, Christchurch & St Patrick’s Cathedrals, Phoenix Park, and Kilmainham Jail. Visit the Shrine of St Valentine for our first pilgrimage **Mass**. We will visit the Guinness brewery.

Check into hotel for 1 night, dinner, bed & breakfast. GREEN ISLE HOTEL

Day 3 Glendalough

In the morning, we will celebrate **Mass** in Blanchardstown Parish Church. Drive via the Wicklow Gap to Glendalough, the “Glen of the two Lakes” where we visit the 6th century Monastery of St. Kevin. Cross the Wicklow Gap to Hollywood and drive to the ruins of Jerpoint Cistercian Abbey dating from the 12th century. We continue to Kilkenny and visit the magnificent 13th century Castle.

Overnight dinner, bed & breakfast at the NEWPARK HOTEL

Day 4 - Holycross Abbey

Drive to Holycross Abbey founded in 1169, to view a Relic of the True Cross. We will continue to the famous Rock of Cashel and visit the site of the conversion of the King of Munster by St Patrick in the 5th century. We will cross the Vee Gap to Mount Mellerey Abbey to celebrate **Mass** in the Cistercian Monastery. Drive to the port of Cobh.

Overnight dinner, bed & breakfast at the COMMODORE HOTEL

Day 5 - Blarney

We will celebrate **Mass** in St. Colman’s Cathedral. Visit the Cobh Heritage Centre – it was from here that over 6 million Irish Famine exiles departed for the USA and Canada. Drive to Blarney to receive the gift of eloquence as we kiss the famous stone. We will continue to Bantry in Cork, a lovely little harbor town in West Cork and on the Wild Atlantic Way. Here, we will visit the Church of St. Brendan the Navigator, Church of Ireland. This beautiful old church was built in 1818 and was designed by Henry Edward Kendall, in gothic style. It is situated in the center of town, just off Wolfe Tone Square. Bantry claims an ancient connection with St. Brendan the Navigator, who it believes was the first person to discover

America. Then we continue to Ballyvourney and visit the Holy Well of St Gobnait. Drive to Killarney

Overnight dinner, bed & breakfast at EARLS COURT HOTEL

Day 6 - Killarney

We will celebrate **Mass** in Killarney Cathedral. Drive via the picturesque village of Adare to Limerick city, where we see King John's Castle, and the Treaty Stone. Lunch break at "Durdy Nellies" famous pub. In the afternoon, we will visit to Craggaunowen – a recreation of pre-historic Irish homesteads. Drive by Quin and see the 15th century Franciscan Abbey. This evening, we will enjoy a Medieval banquet with traditional entertainment at Bunratty Castle.

Check into the BUNRATTY CASTLE HOTEL for dinner, bed & breakfast.

Day 7 - Cliffs of Moher

Depart for the Cliffs of Moher, towering 600 feet above sea level. After visiting the cliffs and having lunch, we will continue onto Galway city. This evening you are free to enjoy the lively town with its numerous Irish music venues and quality restaurants.

Overnight, bed & breakfast at the RADDISON HOTEL

Day 8: Galway

After breakfast, we will take a tour of Galway city to visit Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and St. Nicholas Cathedral, Salmon Weir, and the Spanish Arch. We will continue to Loughrea and celebrate Holy **Mass** in St. Brendan's Cathedral. The foundation stone of the Cathedral was laid on October 10, 1897. Although the Cathedral is small in size, it is large in its interior magnificence. It has been described as the jewel in the crown of the Celtic Revival. [After Mass, we will have lunch in Loughrea before continuing our drive to Knock.](#) Enjoy the afternoon in Knock for guided tour of Ireland's premier Marian Shrine, where an Apparition occurred on August 21st, 1879 at the gable wall of the parish church. Overnight, bed & breakfast at the KNOCK HOUSE HOTEL

Day 9: Lough Derg

This morning, we visit the famous Belleek Pottery factory. We drive to Lough Derg – St. Patrick's Purgatory. We enjoy a short boat trip round the island, to view the traditional pilgrims island of penance. In the afternoon, we drive to Armagh – the Ecclesiastical capital of Ireland- to visit the Cathedral of St. Patrick and celebrate **Mass**.

Overnight, dinner, bed & breakfast at ARMAGH CITY HOTEL

Day 10: ARMAGH St. Patrick

We drive to Downpatrick where we will celebrate Mass in St. Patrick's parish church and on the grounds of the Cathedral, we view the grave of St. Patrick. "In Down, one grave three saints do fill – Patrick, Bridget, and Colmcille". We will enjoy a visit to St Patrick's Centre, In the afternoon, we will visit the Holy Well of St Brigid in Faughart, where she was born in 454 AD. Remarkable cures have been experienced here, at the Well, the Head Stone, the Knee Stone, and the Back Stone. Then we continue to Drogheda to visit the Shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett, martyred in 1681, to view his head in a glass reliquary on a side altar. We continue our drive to Dublin.

2 Nights- dinner, bed & breakfast at GREEN ISLE HOTEL

Day 11: Dublin

Transfer into Dublin city for our final pilgrimage Mass in the Pro-Cathedral. Full day and evening free in Dublin for individual visits or shopping. Some options of visits: Book of Kells at Trinity College; Guinness' Brewery; National Museum

Day 12: Departure

After breakfast, transfer to Dublin airport for flight to USA

- Airfare USA/DUB R/T
- Exclusive transport by luxury motorcoach with a Driver & Sperate Guide
- Meet and greet service upon arrival and departure at Dublin airport
- Hotel accommodation based on twin bedded rooms with private bath/shower
- 10 Full breakfasts & 9 Dinners at hotels
- Visits and admission fees to all in above itinerary
- Daily masses
- Audio whispers devices
- Porterage in hotels
- Luxury coaching throughout
- Services of Marian Pilgrimage Representative throughout
- Porterage
- All admissions as per itinerary above
- Blarney Castle Admission
- Rock Of Cashel Admission
- Knock Tour
- Cliffs of Moher Admission
- Kilmainham Jail, Dublin Admission
- Killkenny Castle Admission
- Boat Trip on Lough Derg
- Medieval Banquet in Bunratty Castle
- TIPS