

TOUR OF IRELAND

Shannon, County Clare • Westport, Co. Mayo • Belfast Co. Antrim • Newgrange, Co. Meath • Mullingar, Co. Westmeath • Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin • Dublin Capital City

Saturday evening, September 19th. Sunday, September 27th. 2020

Tentative Itinerary – Subject to Change

Note: *As awesome as this is, not all activities and tours are on this agenda!*

Updated November 1, 2019

Sat, Sep-19 DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Meet at Logan Airport Terminal C on SATURDAY 6PM

Check in with Annette and "The World Tour" (the club). You will receive your trip SWAG (Stuff We All Get) with luggage tags, trip shirt, plug adapter, etc. and we will check-in as a group with the airline in Boston Logan Airport Terminal C.

If you are not arriving on our group flights, meet up with Annette at the arrival's baggage claim exit in Shannon Airport SUNDAY, 8 am.

Sun, Sep-20 SHANNON ARRIVAL

After customs and immigration formalities at Shannon Airport, our tour director and driver will welcome us to Ireland.

We start our tour along the coast of scenic County Clare and visit the [Cliffs of Moher](#), one of Ireland's most beloved, natural landmarks. See magical vistas, overlooking the shimmering Atlantic Ocean along with Ireland's Western coastline. Pass through the [Burren](#), an area of rocky limestone hills where some unique flowers thrive. This region also contains many dolmens, prehistoric monuments formed by large limestone slabs.

We continue to Galway where we embark on a panoramic tour to see the principal sights of the city. See the Spanish Arch in the [Claddagh area \(history\)](#), the City Museum and the [Cathedral of Our Lady](#). Construction on the Cathedral began in 1958 on the site of the old city prison. It was completed in 1965, making it the last great stone cathedral to be built in Europe, the next being [La Sagrada Familia](#), Basilica in Barcelona, Spain still under construction since 1882 and expected to be finished around 2032, which we visited in 2019. The floors and many of the features are made of Connemara marble, only found in this area of Ireland and the largest use of this marble in the world, which is also popular in Irish traditional jewelry.

After our tour we check in at the [Wyatt Hotel, Westport](#). The Wyatt is one of the finest Westport Hotels, a charming [Mayo](#) boutique hotel, a gem in the heart of glorious [Westport, Co Mayo \(more\)](#). It's has a renowned welcoming atmosphere popular with visitors and locals alike, with tastefully decorated rooms, an upmarket Brasserie, a lively traditional Irish Bar, as well as an award-winning restaurant. Westport has it all, named "Ireland's Best Place To Live" it has numerous awards over the years and a great place to kick off our **insider tour of Ireland!**

Sunday night we have dinner in our Westport hotel.

Mon, Sep-21 ACHILL ISLAND & WESTPORT HOUSE

Westport is a beautiful town on the edge of an Atlantic inlet, on Ireland's west coast. In the Georgian town center, stone bridges link the tree-lined promenade on the banks of the Carrowbeg River. Rockfleet Castle and Burrishoole Abbey, both to the northwest, have ties to the 16th-century pirate queen, [Grace O' Malley](#).

This morning we set off around [Clew Bay](#), through Newport and along Curraun Peninsula to reach [Achill Island](#), joined to the mainland by a bridge. Follow the Atlantic Drive to capture wonderful and wild scenic views of steeply sloped mountains plunging into the shimmering Atlantic Ocean. Achill Island is marked by rugged mountains and peat bogs, the island is known for its tall sea cliffs and clean beaches. Many of the island's stone cottages were abandoned during the mid-19th century Great Famine. The Deserted Village at Slievemore features dozens of such cottages, plus a megalithic tomb and other archaeological artefacts. Overlooking Achill Sound, 15th-century Kildavnet Tower was once home to local pirate queen Granuaille (Grace O'Malley). Over at Dugort, the Achill Mission was established in 1831. Croaghaun mountain on Achill has the sea cliffs in Ireland.

We return to Westport and visit [Westport House](#), an 18th century mansion, set in superb parkland with magnificent views overlooking Clew Bay. See stunning rooms with priceless furnishings, paintings, books, and silver.

After our visit, we will have some time to relax, or join some of us as we explore Westport town both before and after dinner. Enjoy evening dinner in our beautiful hotel.

Tue, Sep-22 TITANIC BELFAST

Leaving Westport, we travel to [Belfast](#) and visit [Titanic Belfast](#) to embark on a journey through the life of the Titanic. After our visit to Titanic we embark on a guided tour of Belfast to see the Albert Memorial, the Opera House and Crown Liquor Saloon. In Donegall Square we view the imposing City Hall, completed in 1906. The richly decorated interior contains stained glass portraying Belfast's principal industries. In the evening we will continue to explore Belfast, including unique and historic pubs, some with local Irish traditional music and entertainment.

Enjoy a nice dinner in our [Belfast hotel the Radisson Blu](#).

Wed, Sep-23 GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

Today, drive along the coast to experience one of Ireland's popular scenic routes. Here, you'll see the "Nine Glens of Antrim," which offer wonderful views of mountains, valleys and coastline.

We continue on to visit the [Giant's Causeway](#), an impressive area of hexagonal columns formed over 60 million years ago by cooling lava which has given rise to many legends.

Again, we will return to Belfast in time for dinner followed by another evening exploring Belfast and its traditional pubs.

Thu, Sep-24 BRU NA BOINNE NEWGRANGE

This morning we depart Belfast and travel into County Meath to visit the [Boyne Valley Visitor Centre](#). While here, we learn about the nearby passage tombs of [Newgrange](#) and [Knowth](#) constructed over 5,000 years ago. Also, visit the actual tomb of Newgrange, which is aligned to the mid-winter sunrise so that the beam of the rising sun falls directly into the chamber.

We then travel to [Mullingar](#) and check into our hotel, the [Mullingar Park Hotel](#). Some of us will explore the beautiful town of Mullingar before dinner in our hotel restaurant.

Fri, Sep-25 BELVEDERE HOUSE & DUN LAOGHAIRE

Near Mullingar we will stop to tour [Belvedere House](#), a stately 18th century mansion with a special place in Irish history. We will take some time for a stroll through the delightful gardens.

After our visit we will continue on to [Dun Laoghaire](#), on the ocean, Dublin Bay. We will check-in to the historic [Royal Marine Hotel](#), after which we have some special local activities planned (some weather dependent). Our club trip leader Annette grew up in this area and some of us went to school here so expect the “insiders view” of this and Dublin!

We have our dinner in our hotel, The Royal Marine.

Sat, Sep-26 DUBLIN CITY & DUN LAOGHAIRE

We will have multiple itineraries today including a tour of Dublin City, enjoying the local harbor and town and potentially a trip by train around Dublin Bay and the coast to the harbor town of [Howth](#).

Our main itinerary will be to set off with a local guide who will show us around Dublin city. The city has been molded through the centuries with many architectural styles, reflecting the economic, political and artistic influences.

Stop at Trinity College to see the [Book of Kells](#), an 8th century illuminated manuscript of the gospels and see the Old Library. After your visit, you will have time on your own in Dublin. You may use your Hop on Hop off pass to visit several places so you can get better acquainted with the city. There are also plenty of museums of Irish interest such as the National Museum, the National Gallery or the Writers Museum. You may also want to shop along Nassau Street, the pedestrianized Grafton Street or Henry Street. In the late afternoon or early evening, we will return to our hotel in time for dinner.

Sun, Sep-27 RETURN TO UNITED STATES

We will check-out and transfer to Dublin Airport in good time to check in for our flight. We can do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores after check-in before boarding our aircraft and flying home across the Atlantic Ocean to Boston!