

ST PATRICK'S IRELAND 11 DAYS



Day 1	Transatlantic
Day 2	Dublin
Day 3	Dublin / St. Patrick's Cathedral / Trinity College / Book of Kells / O'Connell and Grafton Streets
Day 4	Glendalough / Clonmacnoise Monastery / Galway
Day 5	Aran Islands / Aran Heritage Center / Dun Aengus
Day 6	Kylemore Abbey / Croagh Patrick / Knock / Sligo
Day 7	Belleck / Donegal Bay / Derry
Day 8	Giant's Causeway / Glens of Antrim / Belfast
Day 9	Belfast Docks / Opera House / City Hall
Day 10	Downpatrick / Bru Na Boinne / Newgrange / Dublin
Day 11	USA

Ireland is a unique and most hospitable country with a strong religious heritage. From the days of the early Christian monastic settlements, Irish religious scholars have traversed the world to spread the Christian message. Travelling along scenic highways and byways we explore some of these important settlements, learn about St Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, and visit some of the country's great cultural landmarks and cathedrals.

ITINERARY

DAY 1

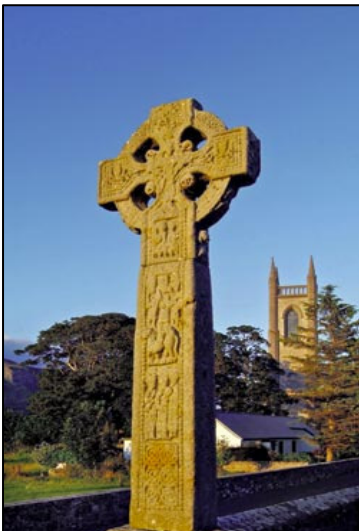
TRANSATLANTIC

Depart USA to Dublin. We must be at the airport at least 2 hours before flight time. Enjoy our on-board transatlantic experience.

ENROUTE TRANSATLANTIC

DAY 2

DUBLIN



On arrival at Dublin airport a professional local guide greets and accompanies us by motor coach to our Dublin hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

OVERNIGHT DUBLIN

DAY 3

DUBLIN

Our guide takes us on a morning tour of this lively city. Visits are included to St Patrick's Cathedral as well as Trinity College, where we see the famed illustrated medieval manuscript known as the Book of Kells. See O'Connell Street and Grafton Street and stroll along the banks of the River Liffey. The afternoon is free to explore some of the city's other attractions such as the Jameson Whiskey Centre or the Guinness Storehouse.

OVERNIGHT DUBLIN

DAY 4

GLENDALOUGH / GALWAY

Leaving Dublin we travel via the lush, green fields and mountains of County Wicklow where we visit Glendalough, a medieval monastic settlement founded in the 6th century. Travelling to County Offaly we visit the monastery at

Clonmacnoise. Afternoon arrival in Galway.

OVERNIGHT GALWAY

DAY 5

ARAN ISLANDS

Today we enjoy a fascinating excursion by motor coach, boat and mini-coach to the Gaelic speaking Aran Islands. We visit the Aran Heritage Centre and the amazing pre historic clifftop fortress of Dun Aengus. We will find out why so many Irish Catholics fled here in the 17th century.

OVERNIGHT GALWAY

DAY 6

**KYLEMORE ABBEY / CROAGH PATRICK /
KNOCK / SLIGO**

Our day begins in the Connemara National Park and we pause to visit Kylemore Abbey, the monastic home of the Benedictine Order of Nuns in Ireland. We continue to the base of the important pilgrimage mountain of Croagh Patrick. At the visitor centre we learn about the history and archaeology of this holy mountain and the associations with St Patrick. Travelling north into County Sligo we finish our day at the Marian Shrine at Knock.

OVERNIGHT SLIGO



DAY 7

BELLEEK – DONEGAL BAY – DERRY

Travelling towards the coast and Donegal Bay we pause to visit the famous porcelain and pottery factory at Belleek. Stop on the bay for some Atlantic Ocean air before an afternoon arrival in Derry. Stroll along the famous walls, see the historic cityscape and marvel at the views across the Foyle bridges.

OVERNIGHT DERRY

DAY 8

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY / BELFAST

Travelling to County Antrim we view the mysterious coastal rock formations of the Giant's Causeway and learn about the legends associated with the site. Enjoy a guided tour of the Old Bushmills Distillery, including a free tasting, and continue south through the Glens of Antrim to Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland.

OVERNIGHT BELFAST

DAY 9

BELFAST



A local guide joins us for a morning sightseeing tour of Belfast. We visit the docks where the RMS Titanic was built and see the Grand Opera House and City Hall. The afternoon is at leisure, perhaps for a drink in the Crown Liquor Saloon, a famous pub owned by the National Trust.

OVERNIGHT BELFAST

DAY 10 DOWNPATRICK – NEWGRANGE – DUBLIN

Beginning our journey south we stop in Downpatrick. Here we see the gravesite of St Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, and gain a fascinating insight into his life at the adjacent Saint Patrick Centre. Crossing the border we learn about the Battle of the Boyne and go even further back in time with a visit to the World Heritage Site of Bru Na Boinne. Short transfers by mini-bus take us to Newgrange, a prehistoric tomb that is

older than both the Pyramids of Egypt and England's Stonehenge. Arrive back in Dublin for a final night with an evening of traditional Irish food and musical entertainment.

OVERNIGHT DUBLIN

DAY 11

DUBLIN

Group transfer to the airport. We will be pleased to tailor your tour to suit your preferred arrival and departure airports.

INCLUDED

1. Flight on regularly scheduled airline from USA to Dublin and return
2. 9 nights lodging double occupancy first class hotels
3. Full Irish breakfast and dinner daily.
4. Touring coach and Tour Manager (9 days):
5. Transfers and additional sightseeing
6. Entrances to the following sights mentioned in the itinerary:
7. Portage of 1 piece of luggage per person on arrival and departure from each hotel
8. Emergency medical insurance for the whole group.

NOT INCLUDED

Government taxes on airline tickets, airport taxes, and fuel charges.

Tips and gratuities to drivers, guides or headwaiters. Approximately \$12.00 per day.

Meals other than those specifically mentioned

Personal spending money for drinks, souvenirs etc.

Transfers to or from US departure airport and passenger's home or organization.

Local government taxes included at the current prevailing rates.

Travel insurance except for the emergency medical insurance mentioned above.

Cost of obtaining passports, visas, handling fees, excess baggage and forwarding of baggage, entrance fees not mentioned, optional tours, tips for personal favors, and costs resulting from absence or deviation from the itinerary and any items not mentioned as being included.