



Emerald Isle Express 2016 The Original Rail Cruise & Castle Tour

Day 1 – Sunday, September 25th – Gathering Day

Welcome to Ireland - Céad Míle Fáilte

We look forward to meeting you from your flight at Dublin Airport. We will transfer you to the 5* Merrion Hotel.

The remainder of your day is free in Dublin. We will be delighted to offer advice and tips about what you might like to do if you so wish. We also provide a Hop On Hop Off Dublin Bus Sightseeing Ticket which would allow you to explore some of the Top Sites in Dublin to visit.

Top Sites to Visit in Dublin:

- The National Museum of Ireland
- The National Gallery
- The Guinness Storehouse
- The Old Jameson Distillery
- A walk around Georgian Dublin
- A Viking Splash Tour Of Dublin

19:00 Welcome Pre-Dinner Reception at the Merrion Hotel.

19:30 Dinner and overnight is arranged at the Merrion Hotel, Dublin for your first overnight stay.

Phone: +353 1 603 0600

Day 2 – Monday, September 26th

Enjoy a full Irish breakfast at the Merrion Hotel

- 09:00** Your luggage will be portered to our coach (you will see it next at Waterford Castle) and we will depart by coach to Connolly Train Station and en route we will have a tour of Georgian Dublin.
- 10:30** Arrive at Dublin Connolly Station for Champagne reception prior to boarding our private heritage train.
- 11:05** Our private heritage train departs Dublin Connolly Train Station and heads south along the coast to Rosslare Strand, County Wexford, arriving at 14:35 (2.35pm). Morning coffee and a light lunch will be served before arrival in Rosslare Strand.
- 14:40** Coach departs Rosslare Strand for Waterford City, County Waterford and your private visit to the Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre.
- 15:45** Arrive at Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre.
- 17:30** Depart Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre for hotel.
- 18:00** Arrive at Waterford Castle Hotel, The Island, Ballinakill, Waterford, Co. Waterford.
Phone: +353 51 878 203
- 19:30** Enjoy dinner and overnight at Waterford Castle Hotel.

Day 3 – Tuesday, September 27th

Enjoy a full Irish breakfast at Waterford Castle Hotel.

- 08:30** Your luggage will be portered to our coach (you will see it next at Fota Island Resort) and we will depart by coach to Waterford Train Station.
- 09:30** Depart Waterford by train to Cork via the beautiful Suir Valley, Tipperary town and Limerick Junction, arriving at Cork City, County Cork at 13:30. Morning coffee and a light lunch will be served before arrival in Cork.
- 13:35** Coach departs Cork Station for Blarney Castle and Gardens.
- 14:00** Arrive at Blarney Castle. You will have ample time to visit Blarney Castle and its wonderful gardens, don't forget to kiss the Blarney Stone and bestow yourself the gift of eternal eloquence!
- 16:30** Depart Blarney for Fota Island Resort.

17:30 Arrive at Fota Island Resort, Fota Island, Cork .
Phone: +353 21 488 3700

19:30 Enjoy Dinner and overnight at Fota Island Resort.

Day 4 – Wednesday, September 28th

Enjoy a full Irish breakfast at the Fota Island Resort Hotel.

08:30 Your luggage will be portered to our coach (you will see it next at Killarney Park Hotel) and we will depart by coach to Cóbh Train Station. Before you board your train you will have an opportunity to visit Cóbh Heritage Centre – The Queenstown Story, an excellent interactive exhibition, chronicling the history of Irish emigration, famine, Titanic and Lusitania, all with connections to Cóbh (pronounced “Cove”).

10:15 Depart Cóbh by train to Killarney via Mallow, County Cork, arriving at Killarney, County Kerry at 13:05. Morning coffee and a light lunch will be served before arrival in Killarney.

13:10 Depart by coach for the world renowned Ring of Kerry scenic drive. This one hundred mile circuit is mostly along the Wild Atlantic Way. You will have plenty of stops en route for photos/coffee etc. Alternatively you can relax and pamper yourself in Killarney for the day.

18:00 Arrive at Killarney Park Hotel, Town Centre, Killarney, Co Kerry.
Phone: +353 64 663 5555

20:00 Enjoy dinner in a local Irish Pub Restaurant with entertainment.

Overnight in Killarney Park Hotel.

Day 5 – Thursday, September 29th

Enjoy a full Irish breakfast at the Killarney Park Hotel.

08:00 Your luggage will be portered to our coach (you will see it next at Dromoland Castle Hotel) and we will depart by coach for Killarney Station.

08:30 Depart Killarney by train to Ennis, via Mallow, Limerick Junction and Limerick City. Arrival in Ennis, County Clare at 11:40. Morning coffee will be served before arrival in Ennis.

11:45 Depart by coach for the Atlantic Coast and the fishing village of Doolin where we will be lunching at Gus O Connor’s famous pub, arrival at 13:00.

14:00 Depart Gus O Connor’s for the Cliffs of Moher.

14:20 Arrive at the Cliffs of Moher, the highest sea Cliffs in Europe! Enjoy the Cliffs and the newly opened Cliff Walk.

16:20 Depart the Cliffs Of Moher for Dromoland Castle

17:20 Arrive at Dromoland Castle

20:00 Leave Dromoland Castle Hotel for Medieval Banquet Evening at Bunratty Castle. Pre-dinner drink in Durty Nellys.

Overnight at Dromoland Castle

Day 6 – Friday, September 30th – FREE DAY

Enjoy a full Irish breakfast at Dromoland Castle Hotel

Guests are free to enjoy the wonderful grounds and facilities at Dromoland Castle. Alternatively you can enjoy our train journey into Galway City to take in some shopping in this medieval city – the ‘City of Tribes’.

Overnight at Dromoland Castle Hotel

Day 7 – Saturday, October 1st

Enjoy a full Irish breakfast at the Dromoland Castle Hotel

09:30 Your luggage will be portered to our coach (you will see it next at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin) and we will depart by coach for Westport Station. En route to Westport we will tour the magnificent region of Connemara where John Ford made the movie *The Quiet Man* in the Summer of 1951.

13:00 Lunch stop will be at Ballinahinch Castle in the heart of stunning Connemara.

14:30 Depart Ballinahinch Castle and continue tour to Westport, via Clifden and Kylemore Abbey, where we will stop for a visit. We arrive in Westport, County Mayo at 18:30.

18:45 Depart Westport Station by train for Dublin. Dinner & entertainment will be served on board.

22:45 Arrive at Dublin Connolly Station for transfer to Shelbourne Hotel, St. Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2 for overnight stay. Phone: +353 1 663 4500.

Overnight at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin

Day 8 – Sunday, October 2nd – Scattering Day

If you would like to linger longer in Dublin, we can arrange extra nights for you.

Slan go foill mo chara!

Enjoy a full Irish breakfast at the Shelbourne Hotel and then your transfer to Dublin Airport or other arrangements.

Please note it will be mid-Autumn in Ireland and at the best of times we can have four seasons in one day, so prepare for cooler, rather than warmer weather and of course bring light waterproofs for that inevitable drop of rain that makes Ireland the Emerald Isle.

We recommend smart casual attire for dinner etc. at the hotels but we are aware it is your vacation and we want to make it as relaxed as possible. If you have any other queries about your forthcoming holiday in Ireland please don't hesitate to contact us.

As you can see, your luggage will be taken care of on a daily basis. However, you may wish to bring a small carry-on bag on the train for personal items during the day.

We very much looking forward to meeting you.