



## Ireland **with** Northern Ireland

**July 15 –24 2018**

**Price: ~~\$4899~~ Book by Dec 1 2017 save \$300**

**Single: \$1299 and very limited**

Our trip to Ireland and Northern Ireland is unique: a mixture of history, scenery, gardens, fine food and hotels, plus the insightful approach applied to every Women's Travel Group tour. We begin with Platinum Services at Dublin Airport and end on The Titanic in Belfast. Flights should be booked departing US/Canada July 14 2018, arriving July 15, and leaving Dublin July 24. See timing below.

### **Day 1: Welcome to Dublin**

On arrival staff will escort you to the Platinum Services Suite at the airport. Relax with refreshments and showers, as porters retrieve luggage. There are many direct flights to Dublin. If you arrive after 11AM, meet the group at lunch.

Dublin is a new center of the European Union, so go now. We see Trinity College, Merrion Square, Dublin Castle, churches and public squares. There are great literary names associated including James Joyce and Oscar Wilde.

From our Platinum suite, our guide and bus takes us to Trinity College into the 18c, when The magnificent Old Library houses the Book of Kells, a 9c manuscript, and Long Room (featured in Harry Potter and Star Wars). Lunch: Pádraic Óg where Gallagher's natural ingredients and artisanal food underpin the Boxty House experience. There is a connection with the land and Irish history, a place where people embrace home-grown produce. After lunch and before check in, we visit Epic about the 10 million people who left Ireland and lived around the globe. Overnight Dublin

**Platinum Suite refreshments, lunch and dinner included.**

**The Hilton Charlemont Hotel 4 Star, Dublin** overlooks the Grand Canal and is a short walk from many shopping and restaurants. It is a 10 minute walk from sites we visit with our bus. The hotel is modern with wifi, flat screen tv's, restaurants and fine amenities. The quiet of this area is excellent for our Dublin stay.

## Day 2: Dublin

We continue Irish history with the GPO Witness History, about the Easter Rebellion of 1916. Enjoy optional lunch then a tour of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, final resting place of Jonathan Swift, author of Gulliver's travels, and first performance of Handel's Messiah in 1742. The interior is adorned with stunning engravings, tiled floors and stained glass. We continue to the home of the 'black stuff'. Arthur Guinness founded the business in 1759. The Storehouse, built in 1904, is a museum about stout. Goup to the Gravity Bar on the 7th floor for the most scenic complimentary pint in Dublin. 360-degree windows afford exceptional views. Overnight Dublin  
**Breakfast and Dinner included**

## Day 3: Medieval Kilkenny

We travel south to medieval Kilkenny with cobbled streets and charm. Kilkenny's heritage is in historic buildings: Kilkenny Castle, and St. Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower. Kilkenny is famous for craft and design workshops, Watergate Theatre, gardens and museums. Rothe House & Garden, is the only example of a 17c merchant's townhouse in Ireland. The garden is a reconstruction of an early 17c urban garden. Kilkenny Castle dramatically dominates the 'High Town'. We visit Medieval Mile, a unique discovery trail. Overnight Kilkenny  
**Breakfast and Dinner included.**

### Lyrath Estate Hotel & Spa 5 star

Set in parkland, a historic 17c house sits alongside a contemporary hotel. Located 1.2 kilometers from Kilkenny, Lyrath Estate is a award winning hotel and spa.

## Day 4: Killarney

Leaving Kilkenny, stop in Cahir to visit the castle, one of Ireland's largest and best preserved. Arrive Killarney and stunning Killarney National Park. Killarney has been welcoming visitors since Queen Victoria in 1861. Killarney is home of lakes and the Ring of Kerry. S and W are rugged mountains, including McGillycuddy Reeks and world-famous lakes. A breathtaking gap between mountain faces is the Gap of Dunloe. Overnight Killarney.

**Breakfast and lunch included.**

### The Malton 4 star

Originally The Railway Hotel in 1854, The Malton since 2006 has a long history and retains the original architecture of Victorian times. With 6 acres of gardens it is in the center of Killarney. Classic rooms are bright and spacious, many with views over landscaped gardens.

## Day 5: The Ring of Kerry

What is the Ring of Kerry? It's a road from deep forest to the crashing waters of the Atlantic. It's a road through rugged, majestic landscapes: where wild stag roam and waterfalls crash into streams with wild salmon. The road winds past pristine beaches, medieval ruins, mountains and loughs, with ever-changing views of the Atlantic. On the coast is the sight of monastic Skellig Michael in the Atlantic. This is THE camera moment of your trip. Overnight Killarney

**Breakfast included.**

## **Day 6: Cliffs of Moher and Galway**

The Cliffs of Moher are Ireland's most visited natural attraction. They stretch for 5 miles, along the Atlantic coast and reach 702 feet. The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience is set into the hillside, O'Brien's Tower – a 19th century viewing tower, and 800 meters of protected cliff side pathways, viewing areas and steps.

The word "Burren" comes from an Irish word "Boíreann", rocky place. The Park hosts a renowned mix of wildflowers from the Alps, Mediterranean and Arctic. The walking trail is set against hilltop tombs and 19c potato ridges. The outing includes informative and entertaining commentaries on the geology, history, flora, wildlife and farming. Galway City at the mouth of Galway Bay is lively with avant-garde culture and handicrafts such as traditional knits, pottery, glass, jewelry and woodwork. Galway is immersed in Irish language and culture, due to its proximity to Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) region. Overnight Galway

**Breakfast and Lunch included**

### **Meyrick Hotel 4 Star**

Located in Eyre Square, The Meyrick Hotel is a 4 star hotel. Take a trip to the Meyrick's spa where therapists and indulge. Guests use the hotel gym and the outdoor Canadian hot tub.

## **Day 7: The Boyne Valley to Belfast**

The Boyne Valley, in the northeast, has UNESCO World Heritage status and is one of the most important megalithic sites in Europe. Prehistoric inhabitants built huge burial tombs on the banks of Boyne and on hilltops. The Neolithic tombs of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth are older than the Great Pyramids of Giza and pre-date Stonehenge by 1000 years. The area is believed to contain 40 tombs. Newgrange was built as a place of astrological, spiritual, religious and ceremonial importance. It is best known for the illumination of its passage and chamber by the winter solstice. Continue to **Northern Ireland**, and Belfast. Belfast offers the vibrancy of a capital and gateway to Northern Ireland. Belfast is teeming with stylish bars, restaurants, and great shopping. The city's many parks, gardens and galleries offer a perfect haven to relax. Overnight Belfast

**Breakfast and Lunch included**

**Europa Hotel Belfast 4 star.**

The hotel is in the heart of the city. The elegant décor, contemporary bistro, bustling bar and relaxing piano bar make the Europa the hotel of choice for business and leisure guests.

### **Day 8: The Causeway Coast**

Northern Ireland has over 200 kilometers of coastline, much filmed in Game of Thrones. Spanning a chasm eighty feet deep is famous Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge once a single rope with widely spaced slats which fishermen traversed with salmon caught off the island. Photo stop only.

The Giant's Causeway is Northern Ireland's most famous landmark and a World Heritage Site. There is a state-of-the-art Visitor Centre. Explore the upgraded walking trails and spectacular coastal scenery. We welcome you to the Causeway Coast Discovery Centre with a Traditional Farmhouse welcome: tea and scones. Try speaking the different languages and dialects such as Ulster Scots and Gaelic. There is an opportunity to play the tin whistle and dance a Céilidh! From rushes or reeds you can weave a St Brigid's Cross or Celtic Knot to take as reminder! Both from the sea below and on site, Dunce castle is spectacular. Its outline provides an iconic view. One of the Must See views along the designated tourist drive it is frequently quoted as being one of Ireland's most romantic castle locations. Overnight Belfast

**Breakfast, tea and scones and dinner included.**

### **Day 9: Titanic Belfast**

Titanic Belfast® is the world's largest Titanic experience. Located in the heart of Belfast, on the slipways where she was built, Titanic Belfast® has special effects, full-scale reconstructions and interactive features to explore the Titanic story; from conception in the early 1900s, through construction and launch, to maiden voyage and catastrophic demise. The journey goes to the discovery of the wreck and present day with a live undersea exploration centre. Free time before returning to Dublin for farewell dinner and overnight.

**Breakfast and dinner included.**

**Hilton Charlemont** a 4 star hotel which offers full amenities and will make a very comfortable last hotel for all flights.

### **Day 10: Departure day**

We will provide one group transfer to the airport early in the morning. Taxis are available if you do not wish to leave with the early transfer. Check out time is usually 12 noon.

**Included:** Driver/Guide...a modern bus, size depending on size of group...Itinerary as above...Entrance fees to places on our itinerary ...Hotels same or similar as quoted...Meals as above with tips- some breakfasts are continental and some full Irish...Platinum arrival service at Dublin Airport and one transfer to town at 11AM...room shares for early bookers

**Not Included:** International airfare...Porterage...Tips to driver/guide and other guides...Travel Insurance...Personal items like telephone, laundry...other items not on our itinerary. For meals not included, our guide will advise on local restaurants.

Our trip price is based on 10 minimum and exchange rates as of September 2017. There is walking on this trip and some hotels do not offer disabled facilities or have some stairs.

