

Ireland



4 Rounds of Golfing paradise

Day 1: Welcome to Ireland

Arrive at Dublin / Shannon Airport, meet with coach driver and guide and transfer to Limerick.

En-route visit the **Rock of Cashel**

Possibly the most photographed site in Ireland, the Rock of Cashel towers over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone. Once the seat of the Kings of Munster. St. Patrick visited the rock in 450 AD, while Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. Granted to the church in the twelfth century, by the O'Brien clan, today the impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, a cathedral, a twelfth century Romanesque chapel and high crosses. The Vicars Choral has been recently restored and its basement houses a small museum of artefacts found on the site. One of the leading visitor attractions in Ireland, in 2011 it was visited by Queen Elizabeth II on her historic first visit to the Republic of Ireland. Continue to Limerick and spend the balance of your day at leisure
Tonight a welcome dinner at your hotel . Overnight and breakfast at your hotel in Limerick or area

Day 2: Golf at Lahinch or Cliffs of Moher

This morning transfer to Co. Clare

Golfers:

Enjoy a round of golf at **Lahinch Golf Club**

At Lahinch Golf Club, golfers visiting County Clare in the west of Ireland can test themselves on windswept dunes on a championship links course, defying water traps and other dangers on a new course created by some of the most famous course designers in the world or simply play a relaxing 18 holes on a course with tree-lined fairways. Lahinch Championship Golf Course is one of the great classic links courses in the world and it hosts the South of Ireland Amateur Championship every year. The Castle Course presents a test with cleverly positioned bunkers and water hazards that make for an unforgettable experience. Doonbeg Golf Course is a mar-



Tourinvest - P.O.Box 616 - Englewood NJ 07631—USA

Tel: 201 266 3363—Toll Free : 888 913 2801—email: info@tourinvest.net - Web: www.tourinvest.net

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vellous course that runs along 1.5 miles of beach and dunes. The ocean is visible from the greens and fairways of the 16th and 18th holes.

Non-golfers:

OPTIONAL: Visit **Cliffs of Moher**



Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren region, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, to entertain his lady friends. A visit of the tower is also possible. The sweeping view across the Atlantic has recently been ranked the best 'cliff-view' on the planet by Conde Nast Traveler. The respected travel publication has voted the world-famous landmark at the top of a new chart of 'Nine

Gorgeous Cliff Views That Rival The Grand Canyon'. Atlantic Edge is the exciting new interpretive centre at the Cliffs of Moher and is built into the natural landscape. The centre is a huge domed cave that contains images, exhibits, displays & experiences exploring different elements of the mighty Cliffs of Moher: Ocean, Rock, Nature and Man. The visitor centre has a restaurant, shop facilities and ample coach and car parking. A spectacular upgraded 13 km of scenic coastal pathway along the Cliffs of Moher links Doolin to Hags Head.

Spend free time in Dingle and explore the **Burren Region**

The Burren landscape covers over 150 square kilometres and is one of Ireland's 6 National Parks. The region is visually similar to a moonscape, yet shelters a mixture of flora and archaeological sites which have attracted visitors for centuries. Man came here over 6000 years ago, cleared the forests and set in motion soil erosion. Centuries of weathering has produced a terrain of fissured limestone pavements, disappearing lakes, terraced mountains, and underground cave systems. For millennia man has left his mark, megalithic tombs and cooking sites litter the pavements, while medieval towerhouses and churches guard the valleys. Today man is absent from most of the upland, leaving behind ancient field systems, routeways and placenames. Today's visitors to the Burren will find Arctic, Alpine and Mediterranean plants growing together.

Return to Limerick and spend the balance of your evening at leisure with dinner under own arrangements

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Limerick or area

Day 3: Ballybunion or Dingle

Today you will depart for Kerry via Shannon Car Ferry across the Shannon Estuary

Golfers:

Enjoy a round of Golf at **Ballybunion Golf Club**

Ballybunion Golf Club, in County Kerry, is a private members golf club founded in 1893. Home to two unique and challenging links courses – The Old Course and The Cashen Course, visitors from around the world have been visiting the club for many decades. Located by the Atlantic Ocean, Ballybunion Golf Club has two traditional links golf courses. They are both unique in character, testing all aspects of shot making. The Old Course was established in 1893, while the Cashen Course was established in 1984. The Old Course requires shot-making, placement and trajectory control. The Cashen Course requires acute precision especially off the tee as fairways frequently disappear around corners. The careless can easily run out of fairway and find their golf ball buried in marram. It's a wonderful challenge from start to finish.



Non-golfers:

Today you will enjoy a full day touring the **Dingle Peninsula**

Some of the finest coastal scenery to be seen in Ireland can be found in West Kerry, on the Dingle Peninsula, the most northern of the Kerry Peninsulas. This peninsula is famous for its Celtic, pre-Christian monuments and Christian churches. It is also a 'Gaeltacht' (Irish speaking) area, where the Irish language and traditional ways of life are preserved. Dingle town itself is a thriving fishing town and offers plenty of opportunity for shopping or simply savouring the atmosphere of a typical country Irish town with

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its plentiful pubs, narrow streets and busy harbour.

OPTIONAL: Enjoy a **Dingle Bay Cruise**

Relish the delights of a short boat cruise of Dingle Bay with an enlightening commentary on local history and look out for Fungie the local celebrity dolphin. The Harbour Cruise is guided tour, takes about 1 hour and is operated with 70 passenger covered boats. As you cruise around the harbour and into the bay learn about the local maritime history, the era of the landlords, the Great Famine and Dingle's historical connections to Spain and France. Continue to Inch Beach for free time.

Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Killarney/Tralee or area



Day 4: Killarney Golf Club & Ring of Kerry

Golfers:



Enjoy a round of golf at **Killarney Golf Club for a round of Golf**

Killarney Golf & Fishing Club was established in 1893 and is one of the oldest clubs in the country. Nestled amidst the serene splendour of the famous Lakes of Killarney and in the shadow of the majestic Macgillycuddy's Reeks, the club's Championship courses are set in a 25,000 acre National Park. At 7,252 yards from the Championship tees, the Killeen course is amongst the most challenging in the country. The beauty of the natural setting is matched by the treachery of the layout with water in play in virtually every hole. In addition to the 1991 and 1992 Irish Opens, Killeen played host to the Curtis Cup in 1996, and welcomed the European Tour back again in 2010 and 2011 for the Irish Open. At 6,800 yards, Mahony's Point offers golfers a more relaxing round from a scoring perspective, though with strategically placed water hazards and bunkers, combined with vast undulating greens, the course still possesses plenty of potential trouble for even the most skilled golfer.

Non-golfers:

Today explore the Ring of Kerry

The Ring of Kerry (166km) is the most famous and panoramic route in Ireland. The astonishing beauty of this large peninsula, Iveragh, comes from the great diversity of its scenery, which offers incessant contrasts. En route around the Ring, take in spectacular scenery - mountains, peat bogs, lakes and magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean as one travels along the coast road. Leaving Killarney pass through Killorglin, famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula and Dingle Bay. Continuing to Cahirciveen, you'll pass the birthplace of our National hero, Daniel O'Connell. Next, continue on through peat bogs to the town of Waterville. Continue to Sneem Village, famous for its brightly coloured houses. The road then continues through the mountains to Molls Gap and Ladies View with superb views of the famous Lakes of Killarney. Molls' Gap is a spectacular photographic viewing point on the famous Ring of Kerry Tour. The visitor is presented with a magnificent view of Black Valley. Close by is the famous Ladies View viewing point with gives a different perspective of this magnificent countryside, with the 3 Lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains. Ladies View received its name from Queen Victoria, who was so impressed with the view that she insisted that her ladies-in-waiting should also visit here.

OPTIONAL: Return to Killarney and enjoy a **jaunting car ride in Killarney National Park**

Killarney National Park became Ireland's first National Park in 1932 when the Muckross Estate was presented to the Nation by Senator Arthur Vincent the owner of Muckross house. Situated in South-west Ireland, close to the most westerly point in Europe, the National Park covers over 10,000 hectares of mountain, moorland, woodland, waterways, parks and gardens. A major geological boundary occurs within the Park, and this, in combination with the climatic influence of the Gulf Stream and the wide range of altitudes in the Park, gives rise to an unusual and varied ecology.



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Step aboard a jaunting car and discover areas of the National Park that you might not otherwise visit. Relax aboard a jaunting car as your Jarvey (driver) takes you through the magnificent scenery of Killarney National Park. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Killarney/Tralee or area

Day 5: Kerry to Dublin

This morning depart Kerry for Dublin

First visit **Blarney Castle**

Attracting visitors from all over the world, Blarney Castle is situated in Blarney 8 km from Cork City. An ancient stronghold of the McCarthy's, Lords of Muskerry, it is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and indeed one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its *Blarney* stone - The Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed, to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the truth behind the legend.

Spend some brief time at leisure at **Blarney Woollen Mills**

The presence of the Woollen Mills during the famine shielded Blarney from the worst effects of the famine, due to its employment of local workers. The success story at the mills continued until a disastrous fire in 1869. By August 1871, the mill was once again operational with a labour force of 222. In 1976 Chris Kelleher, himself a mill worker, bought the old mill property. Within a short period of time Chris and his family transformed the mill into what is perhaps the largest quality craft shop in Ireland.

Arrive in Dublin this afternoon and spend the balance of your day at leisure for personal sightseeing or shopping.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area



Day 6: Portmarnock Golf Club & Dublin

Golfers:



Enjoy a round of Golf at **Portmarnock Golf Club**

The Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links is set in splendid surroundings overlooking the beach. The house was originally owned by the Jameson family, famous for their Irish whiskey. Their home has been tastefully converted to an international hotel with the grounds now hosting a magnificent 18 hole Bernhard Langer-designed golf links. Portmarnock is ranked amongst the top golf courses in the world, with a rich history closely aligned to the progression of golf in Ireland. The Club features two courses: Championship Course (18 holes) and Yellow Course (9 holes). The practice facilities at Portmarnock Golf Club are set to a championship standard. The facilities include a driving range and short game area. There is also a putting and chipping green adjacent to the clubhouse.

Non-golfers:

OPTIONAL: Enjoy a **panoramic tour of Dublin**

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin City. Here you will discover the north and south side of the River Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, or the Custom House along the quays, as well as the Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's House can still be found (today owned by an American College), its colourful doors, along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. Not so far from St. Stephen's Green, in Kildare St., you will see the house of Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula. This part of the city is also dominated by the students of Trinity College, where the famous book of Kells is permanently exhibited in its library. The university is facing the medieval district where Dublin Castle and the two Anglican Cathedrals can be found.



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OPTIONAL: Visit the Guinness Storehouse

The Guinness Brewery in Dublin is Europe's largest stout producing brewery and home to the Guinness Storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. Visitors will discover what goes into the making a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been marketed and how it is today sold in over 150 countries. Once the tour has finished, the guest is invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy their pint of Guinness. Regular demonstrations on the art of pulling a pint of Guinness also take place in the Storehouse. Launched on the fifth floor in 2011, "Five" at Guinness Storehouse, includes a small replica authentic Irish Bar, an 18th Century inspired Brewers Dining Hall, and a restaurant named Gilroy's where guests enjoy a Guinness gastronomic experience driven entirely by the Irish tradition of wholesome local produce. Menus include local foods such as Ardsallagh goat's cheese, Irish mussels from Carlingford and the Waterford Blaas bread supplied by MD Bakery in Waterford. This area will host from time to time live cooking demonstrations using Guinness in the recipe and it includes an interactive recipe sharing bank that allows visitors to take Guinness recipe cards home.



This evening enjoy **dinner and entertainment at the Merry Ploughboy Pub** or similar



The Merry Ploughboys live in concert is widely regarded as the best traditional music show in Dublin and also as a must see for any visitors to Dublin city. The show is a highly entertaining performance of live traditional Irish music, song and Irish dancing. From start to finish, this is a show based on fantastic interaction between the performers and the audience.

Day 7: Farewell

After your final breakfast, transfer to Dublin Airport for departure flight.

