

American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Suggested Tour #1 (5 nights/7 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Dublin, Ireland

Day 2

Downpatrick / Belfast (D)

Arrive in Dublin

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach

Transfer to Belfast via Downpatrick

Visit to St. Patrick's Centre and discover the story of St. Patrick and his place in history. Visitors will experience an interpretive exhibition which tells the fascinating story of Ireland's Patron Saint

Next, visit Down Cathedral which stands close to what is believed to be the remains of St. Patrick

Continue to Belfast for late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening 3-course Welcome Dinner at the hotel restaurant and overnight

Belfast, capital since 1920 of the six counties of Northern Ireland, is an important industrial city and port. It lies beautifully situated on Belfast Lough in the northeast of Ireland, at the mouth of the River Lagan. The central pedestrianized area on the west bank of the River Lagan makes a pleasant place to stroll, with several department stores, shopping arcades, pubs and restaurants. In the 18th Century, the magnificence of its buildings earned the city the sobriquet "Athens of the North"

Day 3

Belfast (B)

Full Irish Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy an orientation tour of Belfast, followed by a visit to Titanic Belfast. The Museum is a monument to Belfast's maritime heritage on the site of the former Harland & Wolff shipyard in the city's Titanic Quarter where the RMS Titanic was built

Lunch, on own

Performance in Belfast as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland*

Evening dinner on own, and overnight

Day 4

Giant's Causeway / Belfast (B,D)

Full Irish Breakfast at the hotel

Depart for an excursion to Giant's Causeway. The Causeway was formed more than 60 million years ago when red-hot lava erupted onto the surface of the earth. It was quickly cooled by the sea, which crystallized it and formed it into 40,000 basalt polygonal columns, which today form Giant's Causeway. A must on any visit to the North of Ireland, the Causeway is an UNESCO World Heritage site, and is referred to as the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Also get a chance to see sights associated with the HBO series, Game of Thrones, such as Ballintoy Harbour, Carinacastle, Cushendun Caves, Downhill Beach and the Dark Hedges

Lunch, on own



Return to Belfast
Evening 3-course dinner at the hotel restaurant and overnight

Day 5 **Dublin** **(B,D)**

Full Irish Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to Dublin
Lunch, on own
Enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin
Visit to **EPIC Ireland**, the Irish Emigration Museum – A state of the art interactive museum experience located in the beautiful vaults of the 1820 Custom House building in Dublin’s Docklands. This is the original departure point for so many of Ireland’s emigrants. Nearly 37 Million U.S. Citizens list their heritage as Irish (Over 8 times the current population of Ireland). At **EPIC**, there are twenty themed galleries to find out why people left, who they were, see how they influenced the world they found, and experience the connection between their descendants and Ireland today
Tonight, we enjoy dinner and traditional Irish entertainment at *The Merry Ploughboy* or *Taylor’s Three Rock*
Return to our hotel for overnight

Dublin is Ireland’s capital and its largest, most cosmopolitan city. It wasn’t before the Viking raids of the 9th century that Dublin was fully established. The “boom years” came in the 18th century and the city expanded across the river forming a new Dublin of stately squares, streets and Georgian mansions. Today, with its elegant Georgian streets, gregarious inhabitants and over one thousand years of history, it’s little wonder Dublin is a city of writers

Day 6 **Glendalough / Dublin** **(B,D)**

Full Irish Breakfast at the hotel
Excursion to Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains. The steep wooded slopes of Glendalough the “valley of the two lakes” harbor one of Ireland’s most atmospheric monastic sites — established in the 6th century. Here, visitors see the Round Tower, Cathedral, St. Kevin’s Cross and Kitchen, and Gatehouse
Lunch, on own
Performance in Dublin/Bray as part of the American Celebration of Music in Ireland*
2-course dinner at a local pub or restaurant
Return to the Dublin hotel for overnight

Day 7 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to the Dublin Airport for return flight home

****Subject to confirmation***

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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