

American Celebration of Music in Ireland

Suggested Tour #6 (8 nights/10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Dublin, Ireland

Day 2

Dublin / Belfast (D)

Arrive in Dublin

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

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

Transfer 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,D)

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 3-course dinner at the hotel restaurant and overnight

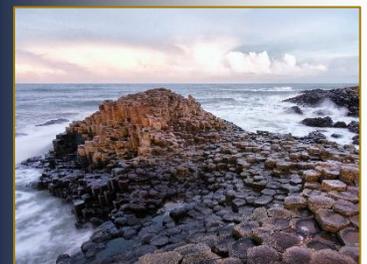
Day 4

Giant’s Causeway / Derry (B,D)

Full Irish Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Derry via Giant’s Causeway

Excursion to Giant’s Causeway for a visit. 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 the 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



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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

Continue to Derry (or Londonderry), the second largest city in Northern Ireland, which is the only remaining, completely intact, walled city in Ireland

Evening 3-course dinner at the hotel restaurant and overnight

Day 5 **Derry / Donegal Region** **(B)**

Full Irish Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a full-day touring in the Donegal region passing through Killybegs, a famous fishing village and the Glenties. Visit the Glenveagh National Park, in many ways one of Ireland’s hidden treasures - its 10,000 acres of protected wilderness are there to be explored as well as Glenveagh Castle and the splendid gardens which surround it. At the southwest end of the Park, are the ice-carved cliffs of the Poisoned Glen and Bingorm, while the north-east end has a gentler array of hills, deep peat bogs and a swampy valley

Lunch, on own

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

Evening dinner on own, and overnight

Day 6 **Galway** **(B,D)**

Full Irish Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Galway

Option 1: Visit the Marble Arch Caves, a series of natural limestone caves. Visitors are guided through an amazing natural formation of rivers, cave passages, and waterfalls (*closed December through mid-March*)

Option 2: Enjoy a Sheepdog Demonstration on the Wild Atlantic Way

Option 3: Visit Belleek Pottery where visitors can learn how fine Parian China is made using traditional methods passed down from generations

Lunch, on own

Enjoy an orientation tour of Galway upon arrival

Evening 3-course dinner at the hotel restaurant and overnight

Day 7 **Connemara / Galway** **(B,D)**

Full Irish Breakfast included at the hotel

Full day tour of Connemara. Connemara is a land of lakes and rivers, bogs and mountains, a land of small villages where Gaelic is still the spoken language and where little has changed since the beginning of time

Enjoy a visit to Kylemore Abbey. The architecture is best described as neo-gothic and the house still displays all the characteristics of that period. One of Kylemore Abbey's most famous features is its miniature cathedral, built in 1870 and known locally as the Gothic church. Today, the abbey is home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns

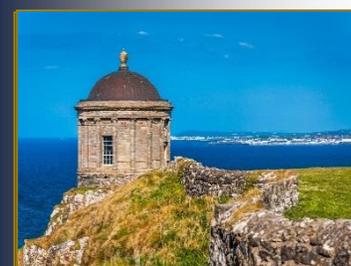
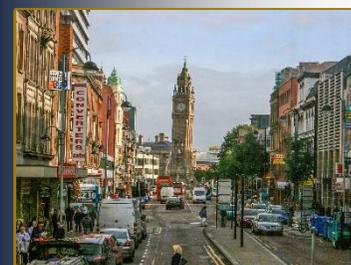
Lunch, on own

Return to Galway

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

2-course dinner at a local pub or restaurant

Return to the hotel for overnight



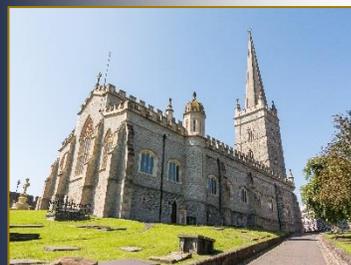
Day 8**Dublin****(B,D)**

Full Irish Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
 Transfer to Dublin
 Lunch, on own
 Afternoon time at leisure in Dublin for shopping and personal sightseeing
Optional: Enjoy a session of Gaelic Games (\$51 supplement per person)
 Enjoy dinner and traditional Irish entertainment at *The Merry Ploughboy* or *Taylor's Three Rock*
 Continue to the 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 9****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 hotel for overnight

**Day 10****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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