

TRAFALGAR



Impactful Travel: *Icons of Ireland*

AAA Exclusive Itinerary



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Discover the treasures of the Emerald Isles with a focus on Ireland's stunning landscapes, wildlife and the efforts taken to preserve them. Go on a seaweed foraging walk on the Wild Atlantic Way, visit a family-run Irish smokehouse and sample fresh Connemara oysters. You'll also tick off the icons including the Cliffs of Moher and the Aran Islands and meet a former hurling player in Kilkenny. An extravagant stay at Ashford Castle Lodge caps off a memorable Ireland tour.

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to the Emerald Isle

Dublin brings new sights, foods and traditions with every step. Meet your airport transfer and get right to the action in this modern, multi-cultural city that embraces its past and with a good dose of fun. Home to icons of Ireland Trinity College and the Book of Kells, said to be the world's most famous medieval manuscript, there is plenty for you to explore. Meet your Travel Director this afternoon for a guided orientation tour to view the elegant Georgian Squares and St. Patrick's Cathedral followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

Meal(s): Welcome Dinner

Hotel: Hotel Riu Plaza The Gresham, Dublin

Day 2: Wicklow National Park

Dive into Ireland's nature exploring Wicklow National Park, Ireland's largest National Park, where your environmentalist guide leads you on a gentle hike. Keep your eyes peeled for rabbits, hares, foxes, goats, badgers, deer, sheep, and otters while your guide unlocks the secrets of flora and fauna and shares how you can protect the surrounding nature. With its wide-open vistas, streams, lakes and wooded valleys, you may recognize the Wicklow Mountains as the site of the battle scenes in the movie Braveheart. These mountains also house a community called Glendalough, one of the most important

monastic sites in Ireland, still a place of a spiritual significance. The afternoon is yours to feel the energy of Dublin buzzing with cafes, shops and the occasional street musician belting out a tune.

Meal(s): Breakfast

Hotel: Hotel Riu Plaza The Gresham, Dublin

Day 3: Journey to Kilkenny & Killarney

Castles, festivals, medieval charm and other icons of Ireland, Kilkenny is also home to Ireland's national sport and the world's fastest field game of hurling. Get active meeting an experienced hurling player to learn about and try this 3,000-year-old Celtic sport and proud legacy of Ireland's heritage. First, James, a former professional player, shows off his skills. Then give it a try yourself going onto the pitch and taking a shot at the goalposts -- scoring like the Kilkenny Cats. End your day winding through county Kilkenny to Killarney on the Wild Atlantic Way. Here in the lush green at the edge of Killarney National Park, why not spend your evening exploring the park.

Meal(s): Breakfast

Hotel: Killarney Plaza Hotel And Spa / Great Southern Killarney

Day 4: A day on the Ring of Kerry

'Kick off your day in Killarney driving the scenic

Ring of Kerry rich with the natural beauty of Ireland's mountains, lakes and lush green countryside. See Daniel O'Connell's Cahirciveen, the fishing village of Waterville, Moll's Gap and the remote Black Valley before arriving at Atlantic Irish Seaweed to meet husband and wife John and Kerryann for a fascinating seaweed walk and **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER**[®] experience. As they guide you along the walk along the beach and coastal paths you'll learn about seaweed's nutritional values and the importance of seaweed to protect the coastline. Continue your exploration of the land visiting Muckross House, a working farm taking you back to the Ireland of old. Set against oak-clad mountains, towering azaleas and rhododendrons along the lakeshore, this mansion house is sure to impress. Learn the local secrets of how to churn butter and hear Irish stories from a local storyteller. A traditional Irish leg of Kerry Lamb Stew is served in the Quilles Farmhouse against the backdrop of the lakes of Killarney for this Be My Guest experience.

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER[®]: Meet John, a seaweed advocate and educator for a seaweed foraging walk at Atlantic Irish Seaweed. On this landscape that has inspired poets, artists and writers, stroll along the shore learning about how they work to protect the fragile ecosystem of the wild

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Atlantic Irish coasts through their educational courses and passion for the local environment. Irish Atlantic Seaweed's environmental policy is to respect, enjoy and protect the natural wonders that surround them, and promote the sustainable use of Ireland's fragile marine ecosystems. This experience advances UN Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.

Be My Guest: Step into 1930s Ireland at Muckross House, a traditional working farm. Meet the families who hail from the surrounding area and work the land, learn how to churn butter and savor local flavors dining in the Quilles Farmhouse accompanied by traditional Irish music. Against the scenic backdrop of the lakes of Killarney, you'll love meeting the resident traditional Kerry cows and checking out the old farm machinery, taking you back to a time before electricity when traditional farming methods were used.

Day 5: Admire the Cliffs of Moher and on to Galway

Get ready for the UNESCO-listed Cliffs of Moher, a natural masterpiece and icon of Ireland. Beaten by the Atlantic for 350 million years, these cliffs stretch into the horizon presenting you with a dramatic scene as the salty air envelopes. Admire their rugged beauty before exploring the 'Atlantic Edge' exhibition for a bird's eye view of the nooks and crannies where Atlantic Puffins make their home. Out in the fresh sea air, you've surely worked up an appetite and Burren Smokehouse is the perfect place to try a local treat. At this family ran Irish smokehouse, get a close up look at the kiln and smokebox from the owner Brigitta, before

tasting their award-winning, organic smoked fish. This evening, enjoy free time in Galway.

Meal(s): Breakfast

Hotel: Clayton Hotel Galway / Sheraton Athlone Hotel

Day 6: The Secrets of Aran Islands

Wave goodbye to Galway this morning as you take the ferry across Galway Bay to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands where a quieter lifestyle invites you to slow down and take it all in. In this ancient landscape, a Local Expert will guide you across white sand beaches and alongside rock formations as you keep an eye out for the resident seals and sheep. Your scenic excursion comes with plenty of history as you unlock the secrets of the island from the island men themselves as they guide you to the 3,200-year-old fort of Dun Aonghasa, the site of the seven churches. Before heading back by ferry, stroll through the island villages embracing the natural beauty of Ireland.

Meal(s): Breakfast

Hotel: Clayton Hotel Galway / Sheraton Athlone Hotel

Day 7: Explore Stunning Connemara and Ashford Castle

The real Ireland springs to life on a visit to Cnoc Suain house, a hillside settlement in a conservation area in Connemara. Meet your hosts and co-founders of the home, the husband-and-wife team of natural scientist Charlie Troy and local native Gaelic speaker and musician Dearbhail Standún. They'll give you a tour of the house showing off the traditional way of living, history of emigration and life of Connemara that led to emigration - complete with a demonstration on how to make Irish

soda bread. Continue your exploration of this wild region on a visit to DK Connemara Oysters. On this **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®** experience, taste the unique flavors of the region's oysters, bred in pure water that runs off the limestone hills of the Connemara National Park and learn about the farm's sustainability initiatives. Cap off the day with your Stay with Stories at the five-star Ashford Castle, where your arrival is marked with a lone piper escorting you to the drawbridge before your Celebration Dinner of the icons of Ireland at the Castle's Lodge.

Meal(s): Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Hotel: The Lodge at Ashford Castle

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®: Oscar Wilde described Connemara as "wild mountainous country. . . in every way magnificent." Experience this region for yourself on a visit to DK Connemara Oysters. This family run farm leads the way in sustainability, biodiversity and packaging for farming and advances UN Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption & Production. The experience also promotes sustainable food experiences, small scale farmer interactions or responsible consumption.

Day 8: Journey Home

After a memorable week on the Emerald Isle, it's time to say goodbye to your fellow travelers before your transfer to Dublin in the early afternoon.

Meal(s) Breakfast

AAA Vacations® Amenity
\$80 on-tour credit*
 towards Optional Experiences

Arrive Dublin	Depart Dublin	Price*	Single Supplement ^
April 12, 2024	April 19, 2024	\$3,375	\$995
June 21, 2024	June 28, 2024	\$3,525	\$1,095
July 19, 2024	July 26, 2024	\$3,595	\$1,295
September 27, 2024	October 4, 2024	\$3,695	\$1,450
November 8, 2024	November 15, 2024	\$3,150	\$875



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*Prices listed are per person, land only and based on double occupancy. ^Limited number of single room supplements are available upon request basis. Call or request a quote for complete details and pricing. International Air: Please note that airfares are not included. We will quote you the lowest possible airfare available on the day you book. Travel to Europe often requires an overnight flight. Please arrange flights to arrive on or before Day 1 of itinerary. Other conditions may apply, please see your AAA Travel Advisor for full details. CST#2077132-20