



Peter Butler Group

September 30th to October 13th 2016

\$3299* per person sharing

* subject to airline availability

ITINERARY

Friday, September 30th – Overnight flight from US to Dublin.

Saturday, October 1st – Meet your Irish driver/guide Paddy Martin and fellow travelers in the arrivals hall to start your journey. Travel to Kildare to visit the Irish National Stud to learn about the valuable horse breeding industry and walk through the charming Japanese Gardens, which represent the “Life of Man” from cradle to grave and enjoy tea/coffee and scones. Arrive in Kilkenny this afternoon with free time to explore the city before dinner in your hotel. Set in the heart of the city, your hotel is steps from countless pubs and shops where you can enjoy a few pints and perhaps exchange some banter with the locals of Kilkenny.

Overnight: Pembroke Hotel, Kilkenny (D)

Sunday, October 2nd – This morning after breakfast drive to New Ross to visit the Dunbrody Emigrant Ship, a replica of the vessel used during the 1840s famine to transport starving people to the U.S and Canada. Return to Kilkenny to visit Kilkenny Castle. It stands dramatically on a strategic height that commands a crossing on the River Nore and dominates the ‘High Town’ of Kilkenny City. Over the eight centuries of its existence, many additions and alterations have been made to the fabric of the building, making Kilkenny Castle today a complex structure of various architectural styles. The original Anglo-Norman stone castle was built for William Marshal, 4th Earl of Pembroke (c.1146-1219) during the first decade of the thirteenth century. Kilkenny Castle later became the principal Irish residence of the powerful Butler family for almost 600 years.

Overnight: Pembroke Hotel, Kilkenny (B,D)



Monday October 3rd – After breakfast depart Kilkenny driving south to visit Blarney Castle & Wollen Mills and climb to the ramparts to kiss the “Stone of Eloquence”. Enjoy some time for shopping at the Woollen mills or take a break in the pub hidden between the shops. Travel through County Cork and onto Killarney and check in to our hotel. Enjoy some free time before dinner in our hotel.

Overnight: Arbutus Hotel, Killarney (B,D)

Tuesday, October 4th – After breakfast your driver will take you on a scenic tour around the Ring of Kerry. Visit the Skellig Experience Centre where you can experience many aspects of those offshore Skellig islands while remaining on the dry land, in a custom built, stone clad, grass roofed, prize winning building located right on the waterfront.

Overnight: Arbutus Hotel, Killarney (B,D)

Wednesday, October 5th – Drive north for a short ferry ride across the wide River Shannon Estuary. View the Cliffs of Moher that rise 700 feet above churning Atlantic swells. From the Cliffs one can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, as well as The Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head to the South. The Cliffs of Moher take their name from a ruined promontory fort “Moithar” which was demolished during the Napoleonic wars to make room for a signal tower. Arrive Galway with time to explore the city before reuniting with your group for a delicious dinner in the hotel.

Overnight: Salthill Hotel, Galway (B,D)





Thursday, October 6th – Relax and enjoy the scenery of the wild and wonderful Connemara region. Today's journey takes you to Kylemore Abbey, one of the most photographed locations in Ireland. Originally built in 1867, Kylemore Abbey and the surrounding mountains and lakes are steeped in history. Return to Galway in early evening with time to explore, relax, or discover the perfect spot for a pint.
Overnight: Salthill Hotel, Galway (B,D)

Friday, October 7th – This morning leave Galway and follow a northerly route and visit the pilgrimage town of Knock and view W.B. Yeats's grave in Drumcliff in the shadow of Benbulbin Mountain in County Sligo. Continue your journey to the town of Belleek to visit the Belleek Pottery Factory. See how skilled craftspeople form and decorate clay to produce delicate porcelain.
Overnight: Mill Park Hotel, Donegal (B,D)

Saturday October 8th – After breakfast travel into the heart of Donegal to Glenveagh National Park where Captain Adair evicted 225 tenants to build Glenveagh Castle in 1870. Learn about the history of the mansion, owners and guests as you tour the rooms and walk around the extensive gardens filled with exotic plants. Then experience the glorious natural beauty of the Grand Atlantic Drive, which winds through Downings and rosapenna and around the coastline. Return to Donegal Town in time for dinner.
Overnight: Mill Park Hotel, Donegal (B,D)

Sunday October 9th – On the way to Cabra Castle where you will be spending two nights visit the Ulster American Folk Park. Immerse yourself in the world famous story of Irish emigration at the museum that brings it to life. Follow the emigrant trail as we journey from the thatched cottages of Ulster, on board a full scale emigrant sailing ship leading to the log cabins of the American Frontier. Meet an array of costumed characters on our way with traditional crafts to show, tales to tell and food to share. Arrive at the castle in the afternoon with free time to explore the grounds before dinner in our hotel.



Overnight: Cabra Castle, Cavan (B,D)

Monday October 10th – After breakfast we'll have the morning to explore the Castle grounds and head to Newgrange after lunch at 1pm. This afternoon visit the Boyne Valley Visitor Center to learn about the burial tombs of Newgrange. Tour to see how primitive people managed to align huge boulders precisely with the movements of the sun. Return to Cabra Castle and join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight.

Overnight: Cabra Castle, Cavan (B, D)



Tuesday October 11th – After breakfast, enjoy a sightseeing tour around Dublin City. You will see elegant Georgian squares and houses, colorful parks, and bustling shopping areas. Take a guided tour of Dublin Castle, which is still used today for many official functions. Afternoon at leisure before dinner at our hotel.

Overnight: Stephens Green Hotel, Dublin (B, D)

Wednesday, October 12th – Enjoy a free day in Dublin. Meet back at the hotel where your driver will take you and your fellow travelers out for authentic Irish entertainment at Taylor's Three Rock "Traditional Irish Night" which features traditional Irish music from world famous singers and musicians with a lively performance of music, song and the very best of Irish dancing and comedy..

Overnight: Stephens Green Hotel, Dublin (B, D)

Thursday, October 13th – After breakfast depart for Dublin Airport with time for Duty Free shopping before your return flight to the US. (B)



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