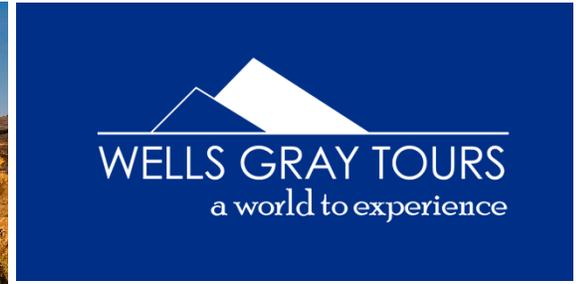




Cliffs of Moher



IRELAND

June 8, 2022 – 16 Days

A tour all around the Emerald Isle

This is the 6th time since 2010 that Wells Gray Tours has offered a tour to Ireland and our travellers have always been thrilled with the experience. We have partnered again with Discover Ireland Tours, a company based in Cork that is committed to connecting groups to the real people of Ireland. Our tour circles the island and includes not only the major cities and iconic sights of Ireland such as Giant's Causeway, Ring of Kerry, and Blarney Castle, but also those personal experiences that put you in touch with the people, such as a horsedrawn cart trip through Muckross Park, Irish entertainment at Kate Kearney's Cottage, and an overnight stay in a castle. So don your richest green, pocket your lucky shamrock, and go where Ireland takes you.

Activity Level: 2



TOUR
25

28 Meals Included:

14 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 10 dinners

Fares per person:

\$7,895 double/twin; \$9,485 single
Please add 0.1% GST.

Experience Points:

Earn 154 points on this tour.

Redeem 154 points if you book by March 3, 2022.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday, June 8

Transfers are provided to Kelowna Airport. We fly to Calgary and connect to an evening flight to Dublin, both on WestJet.

Day 2: Thursday, June 9

We arrive in Dublin in late morning and local time is 8 hours ahead of Pacific Time. **Céad Míle Fáilte (Welcome to Ireland)**! Our driver-guide from Discover Ireland Tours meets us at the airport and we head to Cork on the south coast of Ireland. At **Rock of Cashel**, we see an impressive group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone. These include the 12th century round tower, Romanesque Chapel, 13th century Gothic cathedral, and the restored Hall of the Vicars Choral.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Maldron Hotel, Cork

Day 3: Friday, June 10

The morning is leisure time. During the afternoon, at the **Cobh Heritage Centre**, we learn about life in Ireland through the 18th and 19th centuries, mass emigration, the Great Famine, and the sinking of the *RMS Lusitania*. Cobh was also the last port of call for the *Titanic*. Next, enjoy a tour and whiskey tasting at the **Old Jameson Distillery**.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Maldron Hotel, Cork

Day 4: Saturday, June 11

Blarney Castle is one of the most famous of Ireland's icons. Climb to the castle ramparts where you can kiss the **Blarney Stone** and become en-



Kissing Blarney Stone

dowed with the Gift of the Gab. There is also a shopping opportunity at Blarney Woollen Mills. This afternoon, we drive over the Cork and Kerry Mountains, and through the Irish-speaking villages of

Ballymakeery and Ballyvourney. We pass the ruins of Macroom Castle, once the home of Sir William Penn whose son founded Pennsylvania. Near Killarney, we board horse-drawn carts,

locally known as **jaunting carts**, for a jaunt through Muckcross Park. Tonight, we go to **Kate Kearney's Cottage** at the Gap of Dunloe to enjoy dinner along with traditional entertainment with musicians playing the guitar, fiddle, mandola, Irish bouzouki, banjo, bodhrán, uilleann pipes, and tin whistles. Costumed Irish dancers perform reels, jigs and the almost forgotten 'Brush Dance'.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Randles Hotel, Killarney

Day 5: Sunday, June 12

The **Ring of Kerry** is one of the most awesome drives in Ireland and is full of magical and mystical places and sites. We travel through Killorglin, Glenbeigh, Cahersiveen, and the Coomakesta Pass with magnificent views over Derrynane. Afterwards, we visit Kissane Farm for a demonstration of **sheep dog skills**. The afternoon takes us through Sneem, Moll's Gap, and Ladies View into **Killarney National Park**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Randles Hotel, Killarney

Day 6: Monday, June 13

After crossing the estuary of the Shannon River by ferry, a highlight is the **Cliffs of Moher**, an eight-km stretch of cliffs that plunge 212 metres into the Atlantic Ocean — one of the most photographed sites in Ireland. Today's spectacular drive hugs the coast, then takes us across **The Burren**, an extensive limestone plateau that is bleak and devoid of water, trees, and soil, yet it holds a unique beauty. A stop is made at the Poul nabrone Dolmen, a portal tomb with three standing stones that may be 6,000 years old. Then we follow the south coast of Galway Bay and stay two nights in **Galway**. Dinner is at a local pub with Irish music.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Park House Hotel, Galway

Day 7: Tuesday, June 14

We skirt Lough Corrib, the second largest lake in Ireland with 365 islands. St. Patrick spent 40 days and 40 nights fasting on top of **Croagh Patrick** and praying for the conversion of Pagan Ireland

to Catholicism. In **Connemara National Park**, we admire the bleak bog landscape and rugged ocean cliffs. We visit **Kylemore Abbey** where the Benedictine nuns have run a school for girls since 1920. There is time to wander through the gardens, abbey, and shops. Next, we take a cruise past the dramatic scenery of **Killary Fjord** and have a close view of some mussel farms.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Park House Hotel, Galway

Day 8: Wednesday, June 15

After driving along Lough Mask, we visit the lovely **Belleek Fine China Factory** whose unique pottery and porcelain have been renowned since the 1860s. (They will ship items home for you, so you don't have to carry them for the rest of the tour.) Continuing along the North Mayo Coast, our accommodation for two nights is a very unique experience – **Lough Eske Castle**. It is located on a secluded lakeside estate just outside Donegal Town. Its history, associated with the O'Donnell Clan, the founding fathers of Donegal, dates to the 15th century. A manor was built in 1621, then rebuilt in 1868 and named Lough Eske Castle. It was in ruins by the mid-20th century, then restored in 2007 to be a 5-star hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Lough Eske Castle



Day 9: Thursday, June 16

The morning is spent touring in the **Donegal** area with lunch arranged in a traditional pub. The afternoon is at leisure at Lough Eske to enjoy the castle's beautiful setting or stroll in Donegal.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Lough Eske Castle

Day 10: Friday, June 17

We cross the border into **Northern Ireland** which, since Brexit, requires a stop for a passport check. Soon we are in **Londonderry**, the only completely walled city in the United Kingdom. A local guide takes us on a walking tour of the **Walls of Derry** and shares the unique version of the history of the once infamous Bogside area. We continue to **Belfast**, the capital of Northern Ireland, where we stay three nights. Once a safe haven from sea storms, Belfast developed a large boat building industry and now is known for its vibrant nightlife and arts scene.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Europa Hotel, Belfast

Day 11: Saturday, June 18

We drive along the **North Antrim Coast** through quaint villages that hug the shoreline such as Carnlough, Cushendun, and Cushendall. Next, we explore **Giant's Causeway**, the subject of many legends. A unique geological structure, some 37,000 basalt columns extend from cliffs into the sea. Next, we stop at **Bushmills Distillery** for a tour and to sample its famous whiskey. Lunch is at a **local farmhouse** with a chance to chat to the farmer. Afterwards, we visit the ruins of Dunluce Castle, perched on a dramatic promontory high above the sea. It was built by the powerful MacQuillan family around 1500.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Europa Hotel, Belfast



Day 12: Sunday, June 19

During the morning, we ride in a **Black Taxi** with a local guide for a Belfast highlights tour. This is no ordinary taxi ride, it is a tour of the sites where the troubles in Belfast occurred between the late 1960s and 1990s. Your guide is a taxi driver and

entrepreneur who lived through the conflicts and now makes a living educating his passengers about those distant dark times in Northern Ireland's history. See the peace wall and the Republican and Loyalist murals, and hear a unique perspective on those troubled decades. The small taxis allow us to enter some narrow streets where a coach cannot go. Later, we visit **Titanic Belfast** where nine galleries explain the conception and building of *RMS Titanic* in Belfast, the discovery of the wreck, and modern exploration. There are special effects, dark rides, full-scale reconstructions, and innovative interactive features to explore the Titanic story.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Europa Hotel, Belfast

Day 13: Monday, June 20

We drive through the beautiful Boyne Valley where the Battle of the Boyne took place in 1690 between the deposed King James II and King William III. We visit **Slane Castle** which is still in the Conyngham family after four centuries and enjoy a tasting at its distillery. Nearby is Monasterboice High Crosses, an important centre of religion and learning. The site houses two 14th century churches and an earlier round tower, but is most famous for its 10th century high crosses. Arriving in Dublin, we settle into the Clayton Hotel for a three-night stay right in the centre of the city.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Clayton Hotel Cardiff Lane

Day 14: Tuesday, June 21

Dublin is Ireland's largest city, a historical and contemporary cultural centre. A local guide takes us on a city tour. We visit Trinity College, founded by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592 and home of the **Book of Kells**, the most richly decorated of Ireland's medieval illuminated manuscripts of the four gospels. Another stop is the imposing Christ Church Cathedral, founded in 1163. We round out the day at famous **Guinness Brewery** for a tour and to sample its iconic beer.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Clayton Hotel Cardiff Lane

Day 15: Wednesday, June 22

The day is at leisure and your guide can assist you with ideas, since there is lots to do in Dublin. Tonight, we celebrate our tour around Ireland at the **Merry Ploughboys Pub** with a traditional Irish dinner and cabaret. Don't expect an early night!

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Clayton Hotel Cardiff Lane

Day 16: Thursday, June 23

A transfer is provided to Dublin Airport in late morning. Our flight is on WestJet via Calgary to Kelowna, then transportation is provided to your pickup point.

Meals included: Breakfast



THE EMERALD ISLE

With the known history of Ireland dating back over 6,000 years, the past has truly paved the way for the island's buoyant present and future. The culture is vibrant, evolving, and global, for there are an estimated 80 million people who claim Irish ancestry. The island of almost 6 million has two political entities — the Republic of Ireland which is a sovereign nation with Dublin as its capital, and Northern Ireland which is part of the United Kingdom with the capital at Belfast. The people take pride in their Celtic, Norse, and Anglo heritages. Irish is the first official language, with signs posted in Gaelic in places where the language is dominant, and English is the second official language, of course accented by a lyrical lilt that changes throughout the island. But to keep it interesting, in Northern Ireland, Ulster is spoken, a beautiful form of Scots/Irish, and in the Republic of Ireland, mid-Ulster English and Hiberno-English is common. The Irish are fond of folklore and traditions, particularly expressed through music and dance. In fact, the pub lies at the heart of the cultural life of Ireland, a place where friends gather to philosophize on life and politics, listen to stories and poems, enjoy traditional music, and share a feast.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transportation to/from Kelowna Airport
- WestJet flight from Kelowna to Dublin
- Current air taxes, security fees and surcharges
- Airline luggage fee for 1 suitcase
- 14 nights accommodation and hotel taxes
- Coach transportation in Ireland for 14 days
- Irish driver-guide for 14 days of touring
- Rock of Cashel
- Cobh Heritage Centre
- Old Jameson Distillery tour and tasting
- Blarney Castle and kissing the Blarney Stone
- Muckross Park and Gardens
- Jaunting cart ride at Muckross Park
- Dinner & Irish show at Kate Kearney's Cottage
- Ring of Kerry
- Sheep dog demonstration at Kissane Farm
- Shannon River ferry crossing
- Cliffs of Moher
- Kylemore Abbey and Gardens
- Killary Fjord catamaran cruise
- Belleek Pottery & Fine China
- Lough Eske Castle
- Derry City Walls walking tour with local guide
- Giant's Causeway
- Bushmills Distillery and tasting
- Visit with a local farmer
- Dunluce Castle
- Black Taxis tour of Belfast
- Titanic Belfast Exhibition
- Slane Castle and distillery tasting
- Monasterboice High Crosses
- Locally guided tour of Dublin
- Trinity College and the Book of Kells
- Christ Church Cathedral
- Guinness Brewery tour and tasting
- Merry Ploughboys Pub Traditional Irish Night
- Transfer from hotel to Dublin Airport
- WestJet flight from Dublin to Kelowna
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director
- Gratuities to Irish driver-guide and local guides
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **28 meals:** 14 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 10 dinners

TOUR NOTES

Currency & Expenses: The Euro is used in Ireland and, as of March 2021, a Canadian dollar is worth about €0.66. The British Pound is used in Northern Ireland and a Canadian dollar is worth about £0.57. The Pound and Euro exchange rates were quite volatile in 2020 due to Brexit and Covid-19. You should order Pounds and Euros from your bank 1-2 weeks before departure, or plan to use ATMs. Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere. Gratuities are included for all group meals, Irish drivers, and guides.

Fare Changes: As this tour has been planned and priced 14 months before departure, exchange fluctuations between the Canadian dollar and the Euro or Pound could affect the fare, in which case you will be notified of the increase or decrease. The flight cannot be booked until late July 2021, so it is possible that there could be changes to these amounts. However, it is expected they will be similar to 2021 fares.

Flight: The round-trip flight is on WestJet conveniently from Kelowna via Calgary to Dublin. Other airlines have a connection in London Heathrow which is huge and extremely busy.

Documentation: A valid passport is required. A visa is not required.

Rooms for singles are often a different style or smaller size than twin rooms. Many hotels limit the number of single rooms allocated to a group. Please book early if you prefer to travel single.

Triples are not available on this tour.

Beverages: Although most meals are included, it is not common practice to include beverages with meals. Bottled water is served, but any other beverage will probably be at your expense.

TOUR 25 This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning capacity of the tour is limited to 25 participants or less, a more intimate travel experience.



Activity Level 2: Due to the historic nature of some attractions, it will be necessary to climb stairs, walk on uneven surfaces, and walk up to one kilometre at a time. Rooms in some hotels may be reached by some stairs after riding the elevator. Sometimes the coach cannot drive all the way to an attraction. There are many stops during this tour and you must be able to get on and off the coach by yourself without delaying your fellow travellers. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to/from Dublin; request a cart or wheelchair in advance or at check-in if needed. Please consider these mobility issues prior to booking this tour. The coach cannot carry a scooter. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, driver-guide, and local guides have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due March 3, 2022. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 3, 2022, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From February 4 to March 3, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person. From March 4 to April 1, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From April 2 to May 3, the cancellation charge is 80% of tour fare. After May 3, there is no refund.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credits: Adobe Stock (Cliffs of Moher), Pixabay (sheep, Guinness), Wikimedia (Blarney Stone, Giant's Causeway, jaunting cart), Lough Este Castle

Experience Points: This tour earns 154 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until March 3, 2022.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

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Jaunting cart