

IRELAND

June 2026



A tour all around the Emerald Isle

This is the 9th 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 that is committed to connecting groups to the real people of Ireland. Our tour circles the island and includes not only the iconic sights of Ireland and Northern Ireland such as Blarney Castle, Ring of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher, and Giant's Causeway, but also those personal experiences that put you in touch with the people such as a jaunting cart ride, a sheepdog demonstration, a stay in a castle, a Black Taxi ride around Belfast, and three evenings of traditional Irish entertainment. So don your richest green, pocket your lucky shamrock, and go where Ireland takes you.



INTERNATIONAL



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

❶ **BC Interior:** June 6, 2026 - 18 days

❷ **Vancouver Island:** June 6, 2026 - 18 days

❸ **Lower Mainland:** June 6, 2026 - 18 days

► Fares per person

❶ from **\$12,635** double/twin, **\$15,795** single*

*Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

► Earn 256 Experience Points



Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking.

I BC Interior: We depart on Saturday, June 6 and fly from Kelowna to Dublin via Calgary. We return on Tuesday, June 23, flying from Dublin to Kelowna via Calgary. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure, and back again when we return.

V Vancouver Island: We depart on Saturday, June 6 and fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Dublin via Calgary. We return on Tuesday, June 23, flying from Dublin to Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox via Calgary.

Departure from Victoria: For passengers in the Greater Victoria Area, transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return. Home pickup may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area depending on the number of people booked and coach size. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Departure from Up-island: Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. Please note that while we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding your schedule after final payment. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox Airport at the time of booking.

L Lower Mainland: We depart on Saturday, June 6 and fly from Vancouver or Abbotsford to Dublin via Calgary. We return on Tuesday, June 23, flying from Dublin to Vancouver or Abbotsford via Calgary.

Departure from Vancouver: Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Abbotsford or Chilliwack: No transportation is provided to/from Abbotsford Airport.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$12,635 double/twin \$15,795 single	• This tour is exempt from GST. • Single seats are limited. Please book early if you prefer to travel single.
V	Vancouver Island	\$12,735 double/twin \$15,895 single	
L	Lower Mainland	\$12,665 double/twin \$15,825 single	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

► Meals

- **29 total:** 16 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 12 dinners

► Transportation

- Transportation to/from Kelowna, Victoria, or Vancouver Airport from the BC Interior, Greater Victoria, or Greater Vancouver Areas
- Flights to Dublin & return
- Current air taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- 1 checked bag per person
- Coach transportation in Ireland for 15 days
- Transfer from hotel to Dublin Airport

► Accommodation

- 16 nights accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at hotels

► Guides & Gratuities

- Irish driver-guide for 16 days
- Gratuities to Irish driver-guide & local guides

► Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

► Key Highlights

- Kilkenny Castle
- Guided walking tour of Kilkenny
- Rock of Cashel
- Old Jameson Distillery tour & tasting
- Cobh Heritage Centre
- Blarney Castle & kissing the Blarney Stone

- Blarney Woollen Mills
- Ring of Kerry
- Meet a local Uilleann Piper
- Jaunting cart ride
- Dinner & Irish show at Kate Kearney's Cottage
- Shannon River ferry crossing
- Cliffs of Moher
- Kylemore Abbey & Gardens
- Killary Fjord catamaran cruise
- Sheep dog demonstration at Glengowla Farm
- Belleek Pottery & Fine China
- Lough Eske Castle
- Tour of Donegal
- Triona Design
- Donegal Castle
- Traditional Irish Music session in Donegal
- Derry City Walls walking tour with local guide
- Bushmills Distillery & tasting
- Giant's Causeway
- Titanic Experience Belfast
- Black Taxis tour of Belfast
- Hillsborough Castle & Gardens
- Monasterboice High Crosses
- Locally guided tour of Dublin
- Trinity College & the Book of Kells (if open)
- Christ Church Cathedral
- Guinness Brewery tour & tasting
- Powerscourt House & Gardens
- Glendalough
- Merry Ploughboys Pub Traditional Irish Night

Attractions are subject to change. Please see Tour Policies for more information.



Activity Level 2

Moderate Activity: As a traveller you like a variety of activities and walking up to 2 km with breaks such as a guided walking tour is very doable for you without assistance. You

can stand for prolonged periods, negotiate a variety of terrain from cobblestone streets to moderate hills comfortably, and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. Historic attractions often require walking on uneven surfaces. You must handle your own luggage to the check-in at airports and often walk long distances to your gate. You may need to handle your own luggage at hotels if luggage service is not available.

You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. The coaches cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. 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 Size 25

This tour is limited to 25 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.



Wells Gray Travellers at Old Jameson Distillery 2024

ITINERARY

Saturday, June 6

We fly to Calgary and connect to an evening flight to Dublin.

Sunday, June 7

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 meets us at the airport and we head to Kilkenny, about two hours away. Our first lodging is the unique Lyrath Estate Hotel, celebrated for its gorgeous grounds spread across 170 acres of Irish countryside, complete with picturesque lakes, gardens, and woodlands. The name Lyrath is thought to date back to Norman times when "Strongbow" settled in Ireland during the Norman invasion. Today's Estate House was built in the 17th century and sits alongside its modern-day extension where hotel rooms are located.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny

Monday, June 8

Stroll the hotel's park-like grounds or relax this morning. We visit **Kilkenny Castle** in the afternoon. It has been an important site since William the Earl Marshall built the first stone castle in 1260. A walking tour of Kilkenny town is offered by a local guide.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny

Tuesday, June 9

At the **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. Then we head to the south coast and enjoy a tour and whiskey tasting at **Old Jameson Distillery**. We finish the day in Cork.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: River Lee Hotel, Cork

Wednesday, June 10

Our first stop is the **Cobh Heritage Centre** to 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*. **Blarney Castle** is one of the most famous places in Ireland. Climb to the castle ramparts where you can kiss the **Blarney Stone** and become endowed 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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Randles Hotel, Killarney

ITINERARY continued

Thursday, June 11

The **Ring of Kerry** is one of the most awesome coastal drives in Ireland and is full of magical and mystical places. We travel through Killorglin, Glenbeigh, Cahersiveen, and the Coomakesta Pass with magnificent views over Derrynane. The afternoon takes us through Sneem, Moll's Gap, and Ladies View into **Killarney National Park**. Meet a local Uilleann Piper in a small pub (a pint of Guinness or similar is included); the Uilleann pipes is the Irish form of the bagpipes. We return to the hotel riding on horse-drawn carts, locally known as jaunting carts. 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, and tin whistles. Costumed Irish dancers perform reels, jigs and the almost forgotten 'Brush Dance'.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Randles Hotel, Killarney

Friday, June 12

After crossing the estuary of the Shannon River by ferry, a highlight is the **Cliffs of Moher**, an eight kilometer 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**.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Park House Hotel, Galway

Saturday, June 13

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. A demonstration of **sheep dog skills** is offered at Glengowla Mines and Farm.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Park House Hotel, Galway



ITINERARY continued

Sunday, June 14

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 truly memorable 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

Monday, June 15

The morning is spent touring in the **Donegal** area with a visit to Triona Design, an Irish fashion shop. We also tour **Donegal Castle**, built by Red Hugh O'Donnell as his personal fortress in the 15th century. The afternoon is at leisure at Lough Eske to enjoy the castle's beautiful setting or stroll in Donegal. After dinner, enjoy a specially arranged traditional **Irish Music session** in the castle's Father Browne Bar.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Lough Eske Castle

Tuesday, June 16

We cross the border into **Northern Ireland** which requires a stop for a passport check since Brexit. 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 haven from storms, Belfast developed a boat building industry and now is known for its vibrant nightlife and arts scene.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Grand Central Hotel, Belfast

Wednesday, June 17

Our first stop is at **Bushmills Distillery** for a tour and to sample its famous whiskey. Then we drive along the **North Antrim Coast** through quaint villages that hug the shoreline such as Carnlough, Cushendun, and Cushendall to the **Giant's Causeway**, the subject of many legends. A unique geological structure, some 37,000 basalt columns extend from the cliffs into the sea.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Grand Central Hotel, Belfast

Thursday, June 18

The morning is devoted to the **Titanic Experience 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. Later, 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 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 challenging decades. The small taxis allow us to enter some narrow streets where a coach cannot go.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Grand Central Hotel, Belfast



ITINERARY continued

Friday, June 19

Leaving Belfast, we visit **Hillsborough Castle and Gardens**, best known as the official residence of the Royal Family in Northern Ireland. Later, we stop at 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. Then, 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. Arriving in Dublin, we settle into the Riu Plaza Hotel for a four-night stay in the centre of the city on renowned O'Connell Street.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Riu Plaza The Gresham Hotel

Saturday, June 20

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. (Note: Trinity Library is expected to close in late 2025 for a major renovation, so this visit may be cancelled.) 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: Riu Plaza The Gresham Hotel

Sunday, June 21

The day is at leisure and your guide can assist you with ideas, since there is lots to do in Dublin.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Riu Plaza The Gresham Hotel

Monday, June 22

We drive out of Dublin to **Powerscourt House & Gardens**. Situated in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, it is a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, and ornamental lakes with secret hollows, rambling walks, walled gardens, and over 200 variations of trees and shrubs. Next, we go to **Glendalough**, a centre for pilgrims and visitors since the 6th century when its monastery was founded by St. Kevin. The surviving buildings are probably about 1,200 years old, the most notable being a superb round tower, cathedral, stone churches, and decorated crosses. 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: Riu Plaza The Gresham Hotel

Tuesday, June 23

A transfer is provided to Dublin Airport in mid-morning. We fly home via Calgary.

Meals included: Breakfast



Giant's Causeway

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.

TOUR NOTES

Documentation: A valid passport is required and must not expire before you leave Ireland. No visa is needed. However, an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) must be obtained online before departure. Cost: £16. Instructions will be provided at final payment.

Currency & Expenses: The Euro is used in Ireland and, as of July 2025, one Euro costs C\$1.60. The British Pound is used in Northern Ireland and costs C\$1.85. 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.

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction and book your own flight which allows seat selection. The amount of reduction will be known in late August 2025.

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. The price quoted for singles on page 2 is available for the first 3 bookings, then a higher rate is in effect.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to some remote places where restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

Beverages: Although most dinners are included, it is not common practice to include beverages with meals. Bottled water is served, but any other beverage (including beer in a pub) is probably at your expense.

Triples are not available on this tour.



Galway

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is requested at time of booking and balance is due March 4, 2026. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (3% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Cancellation Policy: Up to February 4, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From February 5 to March 4, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From March 5 to April 3, the cancellation charge is 50% of the tour fare. From April 4 to May 4, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After May 4, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Our many suppliers may notify us about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes, currency exchange rates, or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

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. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for medical, cancellation, interruption, and luggage.

Photo Credits: Unsplash (Donegal, Dublin, Galway), tour director Lisa (Kylemore Abbey, Wells Gray Travellers at Old Jameson Distillery 2024, Wells Gray Travellers at Cliffs of Moher 2024), and Wikimedia (Giant's Causeway).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 256 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until March 4, 2026.

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

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Offices are open weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Book an appointment or walk-in and visit us. _____

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