



ENCHANTING IRELAND

September 1-12, 2019

Program Guide

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BEFORE YOU GO

PERSONAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Passport: A passport that is valid for at least six (6) months after your return date is required for this program.

Visas: U.S. and Canadian citizens do not need visas to enter the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland (U.K.). Other nationalities should consult the local embassies or consulates for visa requirements.

All documentation required for this itinerary is the sole responsibility of the guest. Brand g will not be responsible for advising and/or obtaining required travel documentation for any passenger, or for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your trip, related to improper or absent travel documentation. It is suggested that copies of important documents, including your passport and visas, be kept in a separate place, in case the originals are lost or stolen.

Travel Protection: While travel insurance is not required to participate in this program, Brand g strongly recommends that each guest purchase a travel protection plan, as unforeseen circumstances can occur both prior to and during travel. Brand g's recommended travel insurance provider is Travel Guard Insurance. They may be reached at 1-800-826-4919 or www.travelguard.com/brandgvacations. Please be sure to carry all policy information with you during your program.

HEALTH AND MOBILITY

Vaccinations: At the time of this printing, no vaccinations are required for entering Ireland, but it is recommended that all guests discuss available vaccinations and any other health concerns they may have with their personal physician or a travel medicine specialist.

You may also consult your home country's centers for disease control for their current recommendations. Their website in the US is <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

Physical Limitations: This Enchanting Ireland program is active. While there will be plenty of time to relax, there is much to see and do. Many included excursions require an extensive amount of walking over cobblestone streets, and many sites have numerous steps that may be steeper and narrower than is common in the U.S. For your safety and enjoyment, we recommend that all guests be in good physical condition. Brand g at its sole discretion, reserves the right to refuse passage, or to require a current passenger to end his or her trip, if the passenger's state of health or physical condition may affect his/her own health, safety, or enjoyment or that of other passengers.

Medical: Should a guest require medical attention it will be done at a local facility. Any medical expenses incurred during the trip are the guest's own responsibility, and Brand g is not responsible for costs of medical service or the quality of medical care received. A travel insurance policy that covers medical expenses while traveling internationally is highly recommended.

Dietary Preferences: Please advise us of any special dietary restrictions at least 15 days prior to your departure. This information will be provided to the proper personnel, and to the extent possible within local conditions and limitations, every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. It is the guest's responsibility to provide us with as much detail as possible concerning any medically related dietary concerns. Not all dietary requests can be accommodated, and we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

While there are no restrictions on the number of bags each guest may bring, storage space is limited, and it is suggested that each guest bring only one checked bag. Additionally, all airlines impose restrictions on both size and weight, and many airlines restrict the number of bags per person. Each guest must check with his or her selected air carrier for limitations prior to departure, as luggage restrictions are subject to

change. Guests who exceed an airline's luggage restrictions may be asked by the airline to pay the airline's overweight/oversized luggage fees.

An airline's limitations on the weight and size of checked and carry-on baggage are usually found on their website or may be obtained by calling the airline directly. Please remember that international (over the water) and domestic (intra continental) restrictions may not be the same.

Your luggage and all personal belongings are solely your responsibility throughout the trip. Brand g is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged luggage or personal belongings. Selecting a travel insurance plan that will cover lost or stolen luggage and/or personal items is highly recommended.

Please place luggage tags on the outside of all of your bags, including carry on and hand luggage, and include a copy of your contact information during the trip on the inside of your checked bags. Valuables and medication should only be packed in your carry-on bags (unless required to be placed in checked bags by your airline).

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Brand g issues all final documents by mail or email between 30 and 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided that full payment has been made and the Passenger Information Forms have been fully completed (either online or through the Brand g online booking website, email or hard copy mailed to the Brand g office).

GETTING THERE

AIRPORT SECURITY AND CHECK-IN

Please be sure to contact your airline prior to departure and verify there have been no changes to the flight number or schedule. If you have an airport transfer confirmed with Brand g, please advise of any schedule change affecting your airport pick up time.

Please be sure you are familiar with current airport security procedures and arrive at the airport at least two and a half (2.5) hours prior to your scheduled departure. During peak travel times, you may want to arrive three (3) hours prior to your scheduled departure time.

CUSTOMS

Entry documents will be required at all border crossings, so please carry proper identification with you all times, and never place it in checked luggage.

When arriving by airplane, it is not unusual for a border guard to ask you questions such as “where you are from,” “where are you going,” “how long will you be there,” or “what is the purpose of your trip.” Always answer honestly and politely.

If you are bringing laptops, cameras, or other electrical equipment with you on your trip, you may be required to register these items with the local customs authority to ensure you are not charged duty on these items when you return home.

Most items you purchase internationally can be brought back into the US and Canada. We do recommend, however, that you check with both your home country’s customs office for current restrictions, as well as with the embassies of the countries you are visiting for any restrictions on items that may be unlawful to take outside their borders.

When you return to your home country, you should be prepared to declare everything you purchased or acquired while traveling. Many countries will ask you to complete a customs form, which will require descriptions and values of the items. These forms are easier to complete if you keep your sales receipts easily accessible. Most countries have set customs duty exemptions for both quantity and value of certain items. We suggest that you familiarize yourself with these allowances and limits prior to your travel.

HOTEL CHECK-IN/HOTEL CHECK-OUT

Please be advised that most hotels do not allow check-in earlier than 3:00pm. If you arrive at the hotel before 3:00pm, you may need to wait until the room becomes available. Hotel check-out is usually no later than 11:00am. If your arrival or departure schedule does not coincide with these times, you may ask the hotel to store your luggage while you explore independently. Please note that every effort is made to ensure that your hotel room is available and ready for occupancy upon your arrival at the hotel, but this is not always possible. A short wait for your room to become available may be unavoidable. Depending on your scheduled arrival or departure, you may wish to purchase an early check-in or late check-out, or an additional hotel night, to guarantee availability of your room. Feel free to contact your travel agent or Brand g to review your arrival and departure and discuss any special check-in and/or check-out needs.

TRANSFERS

Arrival Transfers: Guests arriving at the Dublin Airport will be met by our local representatives and transferred to the Dylan Hotel. Please refer to your personalized travel documents to determine if your arrival transfers will be provided. You will find this information on the page entitled *Transfer Information*. If you feel the information listed on that page is not correct, please contact Brand g at 1-800-433-4303 (toll free within the U.S.) or 952-405-9309, email info@brandgvacations.com, or contact your travel agent immediately.

For those with transfers, our representatives will welcome you in the arrival's hall (after customs) with a Brand g logo sign. You will enter the arrivals hall after passing through passport control, collecting your luggage and after proceeding through customs. If you do not see our representative immediately, please wait at least 20 minutes. If no one arrives, or if you have any other problems with your airport pick-up, please call our local representative whose number will be provided on your *Transfer Information* page of your personalized travel documents.

Guests are responsible for providing their most up-to-date flight details. Please inform us immediately if you receive notice of changes to your arrival flight.

Departure Transfers: Those guests departing on the program end date will be transferred to the Dublin Airport. Your Brand g tour leader will provide you with the exact meeting point and time for meeting your transfer prior to the end of the trip.

Flight information for all guests must be provided to Brand g no later than 15 days prior to departure in order for transfers to be properly arranged. Your flight arrangements must also be made in accordance with Brand g's recommended transfer guidelines. Guests are responsible for providing their most up-to-date flight details.

Travel Delays: If you experience a travel delay while still in your home country, after working with your air carrier to revise your flight schedule, please contact Brand g's Minneapolis-based Operations Office at 1-800-433-4303 (toll free within the U.S.) or 952-405-9309 to advise us of your revised arrival date and time. If the line is busy or you are calling outside of general business hours, please leave a message. The Minneapolis office is on central time (GMT -5 hours).

If you have already departed your home country, please contact our local staff at the numbers provided on the communication card that is included with your final documents.

If you purchased travel insurance that covers flight delay and cancellation expenses, you will also want to contact your travel insurance company to start a claim for expenses incurred during your delay. If the delay is serious enough that you will miss the starting point of your cruise, any additional hotel, and/or flight arrangements necessary to meet your group will be at your expense.

Baggage Delays: Baggage delays unfortunately occur from time to time, especially during peak travel periods. If you discover any bag did not make it to your destination, do not leave the airport baggage area without completing a Lost Baggage Report with your air carrier. This report is essential to the tracking of your claim. If you have an airport transfer scheduled, and are traveling with a companion, we recommend that one person exit the baggage claim area and locate the representative to inform him or her of the situation. This will allow the representative to ensure that the transfer is properly provided. Give the air carrier a copy of your travel itinerary, along with the hotel contact information (included on the Communication Card with your personalized travel documents). Report your lost baggage to your Brand g host and provide them with a copy of your Lost Baggage Report. Brand g is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged baggage and/or personal belongings. Selecting a travel insurance plan that will cover lost or stolen luggage and/or personal items is highly recommended.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

CONTACTING HOME

The ability to stay in touch with friends and family is an important part of travel, and many guests choose to bring cell phones on the trip. International roaming charges can be expensive, and it is advisable to contact your local carrier to determine the charges and plans available the country you are visiting, then select the best available plan for your expected usage. Making international calls from the hotels is possible, but costly. Connection fees are usually applied, in addition to other charges.

The Brand g host hotels also offer free Wi-Fi.

Should you choose to bring your cell phone, please refrain from conducting conversations during the guides' excursion commentary and any lectures so as not to disturb others.

CURRENCY AND MONEY MATTERS

The Euro (€) is the official currency of the Republic of Ireland. In Northern Ireland (U.K.), the British Sterling Pound (£) is the official currency. U.S. dollars are not accepted.

Our recommendation is to use ATMs and credit cards and avoid travelers' checks. Banks have odd opening and closing times and smaller towns may not have the capability to exchange foreign currency. When using your credit card, you may be asked if you'd like the amount processed in US dollars or the local currency, Euros (Republic of Ireland) or Pound Sterling (Northern Ireland). We recommend choosing the local currency so you will get the best exchange rate. If you choose US dollars, typically a 3.5% additional fee is added to your total.

Please contact your bank and/or credit card companies to let them know that you will be leaving the country to avoid any problems using your credit or debit cards overseas.

ELECTRICAL CURRENT

The voltage in Ireland and the U.K. is 240-volt currency. To use any electrical product from the US that is not dual voltage, you will need an electrical converter. We recommend bringing an adapter for use in the hotels. To plug in your device, you need an electrical plug adapter. The technical name is Type G. You will also need a two-prong European adapter. These can be purchased at a hardware or home store.

EXCURSIONS

Your tour program includes comprehensive shore excursions led by a local English-speaking guide; these excursions have been designed to provide you with the best possible experience. Your Brand g host will provide details on each day's excursion(s) and timing. If you are concerned about any aspect of an excursion, please inform your Brand g tour leader.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities are customary expressions of appreciation for a job well done. It is our goal to ensure that the service you receive is as wonderful as the sites you visit. While we have collected pre-paid gratuities with your reservation, at your own discretion you may choose to provide additional tips. Ireland is somewhat of a non-tipping country. If you think someone did an excellent job and you want to tip, people would accept the tip with much gratitude. In pubs, the bartender does not expect a tip. Taxi drivers do not expect a tip. In nicer restaurants, you may see a "Service Charge" on the bill. This equals a tip.

PROGRAM STAFF

A Brand g Tour Leader will be with you during your travel program to handle all the details, leaving you to relax and enjoy your vacation.

SECURITY

As in all big cities, pickpockets are not uncommon, and caution is encouraged. We recommend wearing purses and cameras across your body when walking and holding them securely when entering and exiting taxis and buses. We also recommend leaving jewelry and other valuables at home.

SHOPPING

Many shops in Ireland may be closed on Sundays and holidays. There is often free time built into the schedule for shopping or other activities. Additionally, we try to allow shopping during excursions where possible. On excursions where shopping is possible, the actual amount of time available may be limited due to tour constraints.

TIME

Ireland is in the Greenwich Mean Time Zone which is 5 hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time. The 24-hour clock is commonly used for air, bus, and railroad timetables.

WEATHER

The temperature in Ireland in September tends to be in the 60s - sometimes a bit warmer (into the 70s) and sometimes a bit cooler (high 50s). Planning to wear layers is the key to smart packing for Ireland. Also, Irish weather is quite unpredictable – it can be windy, sunny, and rainy all in one day!

Weather forecasts are widely available on the Internet, and some of the favorites for large, international cities are <https://weather.com/> and www.cnn.com/weather.

WHAT TO BRING

Travel Essentials: The following items are essential for any destination: sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, and umbrella. It is recommended that you bring duplicates of prescription eyewear, copies of prescriptions for any medications (generic equivalents are usually easier to obtain), copies of credit card information, and copies of your passport information pages and visas.

Suggested Attire: Attire is casual and comfortable during the day, with sturdy footwear for excursions. Evening wear consists of open-neck shirts, slacks, skirts or similar attire. Fleece jackets or sweaters are advisable for cool evenings. **Jackets and ties are required attire for gentlemen at Ashford Castle past 7pm.**

OMISSIONS

Brand g is not responsible for omissions, printing and/or presentation errors in brochures, on Internet sites, or in any other media where such information may be presented. We reserve the right to make corrections as required.

RESPONSIBILITY WAIVER

The Passenger accepts the terms and conditions of the Contract of Passage when participating in any Brand g cruise/excursion/tour/land extension. Participation in some shore excursions or tours may also be subject to an independent operator's own Terms and Conditions.

ACCOMODATIONS

THE DYLAN HOTEL - DUBLIN

On an exclusive Victorian street, the Dylan Hotel is nestled in the heart of Dublin city center's most sophisticated quarter. This 5-star boutique city center hotel is located 10 minutes' walk from Grafton Street, St. Stephen's Green, the Aviva Stadium and the RDS and is in the epicenter of Dublin's happening cultural scene. The luxury boutique hotel is steps away from the chicest Dublin restaurants, shopping and night life.

THE MERCHANT HOTEL - BELFAST

The AA 5-Red-Star Merchant Hotel in Belfast is situated in the heart of Belfast city center's historic Cathedral Quarter. The grandeur of the original building is complemented by an elegant Art Deco inspired wing with a multitude of exciting amenities. This striking Belfast Hotel includes a stunning luxury spa, a rooftop gym with panoramic city views, a dedicated meeting and events suite, and a fabulous jazz bar. The Merchant Hotel Belfast is located a short distance from a host of Belfast Attractions, including Victoria Square shopping center, the Ulster Museum, the Titanic Quarter and The Waterfront Hall.

HARVEY'S POINT HOTEL - DONEGAL

Tucked away amidst the hills of Donegal, Harvey's Point is a unique, luxurious 74-bedroom hotel, featuring the very best in accommodation to international standards, fine dining cuisine and traditional Irish hospitality. Owned and managed by the Swiss family Gysling, this hotel has become the market leader in the Northwest of Ireland. Harvey's Point is a real hotel run by real people, each of whom has a genuine desire to see guests who are happy, relaxed and pampered. Harvey's Point is truly delighted to have been voted 'Number One Hotel in Ireland' and the only Irish hotel in the top 25 hotels of Europe in the 2013 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice awards,

ASHFORD CASTLE

Ashford Castle, in a magnificent 350-acre estate on the picturesque shores of Lough Corrib, is one of Ireland's most impressive hotels. With a history stretching back almost 800 years, it provides acclaimed hospitality on a grand scale. The 82 individually-designed rooms retain many original features yet offer the latest modern amenities. Enjoy exceptional dining in the George V Dining Room, and Afternoon Tea in the Connaught Room with spectacular views across the estate. There are plenty of activities to be enjoyed, including fishing, a falconry school, equestrian center, 9-hole golf course and spa.

THE ROSS HOTEL - KILLARNEY

One of the most modern, luxurious and historic hotels in Killarney is home to twenty-nine stunningly stylish and comforting Rooms and Suites. For delicious and fulfilling bites, dine in the renowned Cellar One Restaurant and the Lane Cafe Bar, where you can idle the time away sipping the best of Killarney cocktails and savoring the finest of local produce prepared by our head chef, Ian McMonagle. Being right in the heart of Killarney town, we are close to nature and the multitude of Killarney tourist activities that you can indulge in.

THE RIVER LEE HOTEL - CORK

Set on a picturesque bend in the river, just a short walk from Cork city center, The River Lee Hotel occupies a unique position in this charming, historic city. The River Lee is one of Cork's leading business and social destinations. All aspects of Cork local life are played out here, from business events and family celebrations, to casual get-togethers in the hotel's highly popular Weir Rooms including the Weir Room Restaurant, Bar and Terrace on the Weir; a key location in Cork's growing food scene. Resident guests also have complimentary access to the hotel's in-house health and fitness club, with a 20m swimming pool and spa.

ITINERARY

ROUDTRIP DUBLIN, IRELAND

September 1, 2019

DUBLIN

Welcome to Dublin! You will be met at the airport and transferred to the Dylan Hotel or depending on your arrival time, you may be transferred directly to lunch. Our adventure begins with a festive welcome lunch in Nancy Hands authentic Irish pub and restaurant, including a flaming Irish Coffee demonstration. Continue with an afternoon walking tour of the city. Experience the 2,000-year-old capital city by exploring some of its beautiful architecture, ancient city walls, and backstreets alive with history, heritage and culture with a local expert. Today's tour includes Georgian Squares, Government Buildings, the Oscar Wilde statue and as time permits, Temple Bar area. We will also have a whiskey tasting at the Old Jameson Distillery. After some time to refresh we'll have a welcome dinner will be at the Dylan Hotel. (L/D)

September 2, 2019

DUBLIN/GLENDALOUGH

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning. Today, we visit Ballyknocken Farm and Cookery School, home to celebrity chef Catherine (Byrne) Fulvio. Here, you'll have the opportunity to prepare your own lunch in a hands-on cookery class, using one key ingredient: Guinness.

This afternoon, we head to the monastic ruins of Glendalough. Established by St. Kevin in the 6th Century, its ruined churches are scattered around two lakes. One of Europe's finest examples of Round Tower architecture can be found here, as well as a Cathedral, stone churches and decorated crosses. Return to the Dylan Hotel in Dublin. Tonight dinner is included at Peploes restaurant. (B/L/D)

September 3, 2019

DUBLIN/ BELFAST

Following breakfast at the hotel, we travel to the Boyne Valley in County Meath. Less than an hour's drive from Dublin, the beautiful Boyne Valley is the heart of Ireland's Ancient East and is home to Stone Age passage tombs, medieval castles and early Christian abbeys.

This morning you will visit Newgrange. Newgrange was constructed over 5,000 years ago (about 3,200 B.C.), making it older than Stonehenge in England and the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. Newgrange was built during the Neolithic or New Stone Age by a farming community that prospered on the rich lands of the Boyne Valley.

Archaeologists classified Newgrange as a passage tomb, however Newgrange is now recognised to be much more than a passage tomb. Ancient Temple is a more fitting classification, a place of astrological, spiritual, religious and ceremonial importance, much as present day cathedrals are places of prestige and worship where dignitaries may be laid to rest.

Newgrange is a large kidney shaped mound covering an area of over one acre, retained at the base by 97 kerbstones, some of which are richly decorated with megalithic art. The 19 metre long inner passage leads to a cruciform chamber with a corbelled roof. The amount of time and labour invested in construction of Newgrange suggests a well-organized society with specialised groups responsible for different aspects of construction.

After an included lunch in the country cottages of Tankardstown, we continue on to Belfast, where you'll have the opportunity to take a Black Taxi Tour of the city, including Shankill and Falls Road, and learn of

how things were during The Troubles. See the wall murals that are known all over the world. Every mural tells a story, which will be explained in great detail. Then, we will take you to the famous peace wall that separates the Protestant and Catholic communities, where you'll get a chance to sign your name on the wall. Tonight, we enjoy dinner together at Deanes Meat Locker, before settling into the Merchant Hotel for a relaxing night. (B/L/D)

September 4, 2019

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY/DERRY

After breakfast at the hotel, our first stop today is at the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, which is suspended almost 100 ft (30 m) above sea level and was first erected by salmon fishermen 350 years ago. Today it is a popular attraction for thrill-seekers and birdwatchers. If you are bold enough to cross the 65 ft (20 m) bridge, stretching from the mainland to 'Rocky Island', you will be rewarded with fantastic views of Rathlin Island, Scotland and the Causeway Coast. Get a bird's eye view of the clear, green water flowing around the ancient caves and caverns far below – if you dare to look down.

Next, we stop in the pretty town of Bushmills where you will enjoy lunch at Bushmills Inn. After, we explore the unique Giant's Causeway. Flanked by the wild North Atlantic Ocean on one side and a landscape of dramatic cliffs on the other, for centuries the Giant's Causeway has inspired artists, stirred scientific debate and captured the imagination of all who see it. Experience the famous basalt columns with our knowledgeable guide. Climb the Shepherd's Steps and take a hike along the cliff-top trail for bird's eye views of the causeway coastline – famed worldwide for its beauty.

We continue to Donegal where you'll be treated to a festive cabaret dinner before settling into a restful sleep at Harvey's Point Hotel. (B/L/D)

September 5, 2019

DERRY/SLIGO/MAYO

Today after breakfast at the hotel, we set off to explore Drumcliffe, County Sligo, which is set against the striking backdrop of the Benbulbin Mountains. It is best known as the final resting place of W.B. Yeats. Found in the churchyard, his grave is marked with a simple headstone with the inscription, "cast a cold eye on life, on death, horseman, pass by." This was Yeats' self-penned epitaph together with the instructions that the grave consist of "no marble, no conventional phrase". The graveyard also contains a high cross and nearby is the site of a 6th Century monastery.

We'll then enjoy lunch in Sligo before we continue to majestic Ashford Castle, the jewel in the crown of Ireland's most iconic hotels. The estate is set on 350 acres, including the picturesque shores of Lough Corrib. Dating back to 1228, the castle now enters a new chapter in its history, as part of the prestigious Red Carnation Hotel Collection. Hear about the illustrious history of the castle and about the Castle's recent refurbishment, with guest rooms and public areas restored precisely to their former glory. Tonight, we enjoy dinner together at Cullen's in Ashford Castle. (B/L/D)

September 6, 2019

CYCLE THE GREENWAY/CRUISE LOUGH CORRIB

Following breakfast at Ashford, escape the bustle of urban life on the 42km Great Western Greenway, the longest off-road walking and cycling trail in Ireland. The World Class Great Western Greenway is a traffic-free cycling and walking trail which follows the route of the renowned Westport to Achill railway. You'll have the option of a leisurely 2 – 2.5-hour bike, **OR** you may have already signed up for an alternative activity at Ashford **OR** simply spend the morning relaxing at Ashford.

Following lunch, we have a two-hour cruise of the Lough Corrib, to explore the beautiful lake shore, with a guided stopover on the Isle of Innisfree. This evening dine like royalty in Ashford Castle's George V Restaurant. **Jackets for gentlemen (ties optional) and dressy attire for the ladies are required at dinner this evening.** (B/L/D).

September 7, 2019

CLIFFS OF MOHR/LIMERICK/KILLARNEY

Enjoy one more delicious breakfast at Ashford this morning before we check-out and depart. Today's highlight is a visit to the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, which are Ireland's most visited natural attraction. With a magical vista that captures the hearts of one million visitors every year, the Cliffs are a Signature Discovery Point in the heart of the Wild Atlantic Way. They stretch for 8km (5miles), as the crow flies, along the Atlantic coast of County Clare in the west of Ireland and reach 214m (702 feet) at their highest point at Knockardakin just north of O'Brien's Tower. Here, you can have a world class, one in a million-visitor experience.

Next, the Burren is an area of karst landscape in County Clare. The word "Burren" comes from an Irish word "Boireann" meaning a rocky place. This is an extremely appropriate name when you consider the lack of soil cover and the extent of exposed Limestone Pavement. However, it has been referred to in the past as "Fertile rock" due to the mixture of nutrient rich herb and floral species.

After, we check into the boutique Ross Hotel in Killarney. Tonight, enjoy dinner and entertainment at Major Colgan's (formerly Jarvey's Rest), an award-winning Irish Pub and the perfect venue for a genuine pub experience, with gastro pub style food, a choice of Irish drinks and live entertainment. This famous Irish pub still contains original wooden floors, stonewalls, beamed ceilings and open fires. Overnight at the Ross Hotel. (B/L/D)

September 8, 2019

RING OF KERRY

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a full-day Ring of Kerry Tour. Travel the road that winds around the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula, better known as "The Ring of Kerry." It is undoubtedly one of the most magical places in all of Ireland. Enjoy a beautiful walk out of Killarney to follow an old "Butter Road" and climb Torc Mountain and soak in the incredible views. This evening enjoy an exclusive dinner in the Ross Hotel at Cellar One. (B/L/D)

September 9, 2019

GAP OF DUNLOE

Following breakfast at the Ross Hotel, we set off for the Gap of Dunloe, which is a narrow pass between Macgillicuddy's Reeks and the Purple Mountains near Killarney. It begins at Kate Kearney's Cottage and ends with a descent into The Black Valley, a distance of approximately 11 km (7 miles). As one travels through the Gap from Kate Kearney's, five small lakes are passed: Coosaun Lough, Black Lake, Cushnavally Lake, Auger Lake, and Black Lough; in turn, these lakes are connected by the River Loe from which the gap gets its name. Between the first two lakes is an old arch bridge called the "Wishing Bridge", so named because it is said that wishes made while upon it are destined to come true.

This is more of an adventure than a tour. It includes a bus ride to Kate Kearney's Cottage, then a journey of 7 miles (11.2 km) by jaunting car through the famous gap – a glaciated valley – to Lord Brandon's Cottage, where a barbecue lunch will be prepared for us.

Tonight, enjoy the evening at leisure and dinner on your own. Overnight at the Ross Hotel. (B/L)

September 10, 2019

GLENGARRIF/CORK

Following our final breakfast at the Ross Hotel we set off for today's touring, which includes Garnish Island, located in the sheltered harbor of Glengarriff, in Southwest Ireland. Garnish is world renowned for its beautiful gardens known to horticulturists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the world. Following the visit to Garnish Island, we enjoy lunch before continuing to Cork, where we'll check in to the River Lee Hotel. The evening and dinner is at your leisure. (B/L)

September 11, 2019

KILLKENNY/DUBLIN

After breakfast at the River Lee Hotel, we travel to the medieval city of Kilkenny. Kilkenny's rich medieval heritage is evident in the city's treasure trove of historical buildings and landmarks, exemplified by the magnificent Kilkenny Castle. Kilkenny is arguably the pre-eminent medieval city in Ireland, with the current layout of the city clearly grounded in its medieval roots. However, the city's origins predate the medieval landmarks existing today. Saint Canice founded a monastic settlement in Kilkenny in the sixth century; unfortunately, the sole remaining landmark from this settlement is the round tower positioned alongside the cathedral. Strongbow, the legendary Norman invader, built a fort in the twelfth century on the site where Kilkenny Castle stands today. Subsequent to this event, William Marshall (Strongbow's son-in-law and Earl of Pembroke) oversaw the building and maintenance of fortified city walls, thus consolidating the Norman's position of power in the city. However, it wasn't until the seventeenth century that Kilkenny really entered its golden age. The parliament, known as the Confederation of Kilkenny, was founded in 1641. One of the parliament's main objectives was to unite resistance against English persecution of Irish Catholics. With the emergence of this parliament, Kilkenny entered a period of unparalleled success. Over time, however, the influence of the Confederation of Kilkenny diminished. Oliver Cromwell's arrival in Kilkenny heralded the dissolution of the parliament, and the city never quite regained the prosperity it had previously been celebrated for.

Following lunch, we will head back to Dublin for a bit of free time before our farewell dinner tonight at Bang Restaurant. Overnight at the Dylan Hotel. (B/L/D)

September 12, 2019

DUBLIN

They say all good things come to an end, and this morning your wonderful Ireland experience concludes. After another delicious included breakfast, you will be taken to Dublin Airport for your onward journey or return home. (B)