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Escape to Five Star Ireland

Day 1

**Arrival - Dublin Airport**

Céad Míle Fáilte (a hundred thousand welcomes!).

Your Private Driver will meet you in the Arrivals Hall of Dublin Airport and you will begin your Irish adventure.

**Wicklow Exploring**

Leaving Dublin Airport, your driver will bring you south to County Wicklow. The seaside town of Greystones is the perfect place to start off your day, before continuing on to Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park. In the early afternoon, you'll drive to the Powerscourt Estate, where you might like to visit the Powerscourt Waterfall, Powerscourt House, or spend some time at your hotel before check-in.

**Greystones, Co. Wicklow**

Charming and laid-back, Greystones is a coastal gem known for its natural beauty and excellent dining. Start your day with breakfast here. With sea views and a friendly vibe, Greystones is a favourite among locals and visitors alike.

**Glendalough, Co. Wicklow**

For thousands of years people have been drawn to Glendalough, from the Irish, Gleann Dá Loch (**the valley of the two lakes**), for its spectacular scenery, rich history, archaeology and abundant wildlife. Glendalough is a remarkable place that will still your mind, inspire your heart and fill your soul.

Spend time in Wicklow National Park, visit the historical Monastic City, or take a scenic drive through the Sally Gap!



Glendalough's Monastic City

Glendalough is home to one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland. This early Christian monastic settlement was founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century and from this developed the "Monastic City".

Most of the buildings that survive today date from the 10th through 12th centuries. Despite attacks by Vikings over the years, Glendalough thrived as one of Ireland's great ecclesiastical foundations and schools of learning until the Normans destroyed the monastery in 1214 A.D. and the dioceses of Glendalough and Dublin were united. Close to the monastic city is an interactive centre.

Learn all about this hallowed place in the fine interpretive centre before exploring the site for yourself. If you do, you will be rewarded with spectacular views of the two lakes and a uniquely spiritual atmosphere.



Sally Gap

Sally Gap is one of two east-to-west passes across the Wicklow Mountains. Sally Gaps is a cross-road that leads you North to Dublin, West to Blessington, South to Glendalough or East to Roundwood. The Sally Gap got its road after the Irish rebellion of 1798. It was built by British Army forces looking to flush rebels from the hills, and to this day is known as the Military Road.

Highlights of this winding, twisting feat of engineering include the Glencree valley, the dark waters of Lough Tay, Kippure Mountain and Glenmacnass Waterfall.

For any fans of the Gerard Butler and Hillary Swank film, PS I Love You, the Sally Gap may seem somewhat familiar!





Powerscourt Waterfall

Take in the breath-taking beauty of Ireland's highest waterfall, which cascades dramatically down 121 metres of rugged rock. Atmospheric, romantic, and exciting, it's a must visit element of Powerscourt Estate.

Powerscourt Waterfall is located 6 km, approximately 9 minutes drive, from Powerscourt Gardens.



Powerscourt House & Gardens

Just outside of the charming village of Enniskerry, visit Powerscourt House, the former home of Lord Powerscourt. Tour the house, and walk through the expansive terraced Italian gardens and abundant floral displays. Set on a commanding hilltop position, against the backdrop of the Sugarloaf mountains, a sweeping terrace on the mansion's southside opens onto a breath-taking, ornamental garden and lake. A must-see picturesque destination!



Powerscourt Hotel Resort & Spa (if available, 1 night)

Powerscourt Hotel Resort and Spa is located near the quaint village of Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, only 30 minutes from Dublin City centre, and 35 minutes from Dublin Airport.

Outstanding amongst the luxury 5-star hotels in Ireland, Powerscourt Hotel is set amidst the scenic and historic Powerscourt Estate, where the picturesque Powerscourt House and Gardens feature colourful displays all year round. The 198-room retreat features Palladian-style architecture with luxurious amenities including a 20 metre Swarovski crystal-lit indoor pool.

Be enchanted by the nature which surrounds Powerscourt Hotel as you venture out to explore all that the scenic Powerscourt Estate has to offer. Score a hole-in-one on one of the 18-hole Championship golf courses, sip on an Irish whiskey or take to the trails by foot or by bike.

Experience quality dining at Sika Restaurant, with a relaxed atmosphere and views overlooking the Sugar Loaf Mountain. Inspired by the artisan producers and local suppliers which surround Powerscourt Estate, the Culinary Team at Sika Restaurant prepare a seasonal menu which brings to life the story of their locality. Celebrating the best of Ireland, expect to embrace a fine dining experience which is matched with true Irish hospitality.

Afternoon Tea is a popular tradition at Powerscourt Hotel, served in the Sugar Loaf Lounge, where guests can enjoy the wonderful pastry creations with breath-taking views



Day 2



Travel to Waterford

After check-out, you will journey south towards County Waterford, with the option to stop at Avoca Handweavers on route. Visit Waterford City, where you might like to visit House of Waterford Crystal or the Medieval Museum. Afterwards, you will continue on to Cliff House Hotel, where you could opt to add on a seaweed bath or a spa treatment for a relaxing late afternoon.



Avoca Handweavers (Avoca Mills)

Ireland's oldest working woollen mill, Avoca Mills in County Wicklow offers a vibrant glimpse into traditional Irish craftsmanship. Watch weavers at work, shop for beautifully made textiles and gifts, and enjoy a meal in the award-winning café. A must-visit for those interested in Irish design and heritage.



Waterford City

Waterford, a seaport in southeast Ireland, is the country's oldest city. It was founded by Vikings in 914 A.D. and parts of its ancient walled core remain. Within Reginald's Tower, a circa-1003 fortification, the Waterford Museum of Treasures displays local archaeological finds. Famed glass manufacturer Waterford Crystal began here in 1783. Today the company's facility near the historic district offers factory tours.





Medieval Museum, Waterford City

Medieval Waterford is Ireland's only purpose-built medieval museum and the only building on the island to incorporate two medieval chambers, the 13th-century Choristers' Hall and the 15th-century Mayor's Wine Vault.

Step back into Medieval Waterford as you begin your tour in the 13th-century Choristers Hall and 15th Century Wine vault where you are sure to be wowed by some of the greatest Treasures of Medieval Ireland, including the Great Charter Roll viewed by HM King Charles III and the Queen Consort and the magnificent 15th-century cloth-of-gold church vestments.



House of Waterford Crystal

Visit the House of Waterford Crystal, and see firsthand the process of making Ireland's most iconic artistic exports. A visit to the House of Waterford allows you to experience the sheer divinity of fine crystal, as well as the masterful techniques that create such opulent visions of beauty.



Cliff House Hotel (if available, 1 night)

Cliff House Hotel is a 5-star, privately owned luxury hotel in Ireland, located close to Cork and Waterford. The building seems to defy gravity, clinging to a cliff on the south side of Ardmore Bay where there has long been a fishing village.

Regarded as one of the finest small luxury, five-star hotels in Ireland, Cliff House Hotel is a 39-room Irish seaside boutique hotel in the traditional fishing village of Ardmore. From sun-drenched terraces and private balconies, it is possible to see Ardmore's golden sands, lobster pots and dolphins that play out on the water.

They have an on site Michelin-starred restaurant, House Restaurant, as well as the more casual Oceanfront Restaurant & bar and summer terrace dining.

At The Well spa, a 15m indoor swimming pool is the centerpiece. The floor-to-ceiling windows and ocean views create a sense of unending space, as if the pool is merging into the Irish Sea.

Outside, they have a natural outdoor rock pool which can be enjoyed at full tide, for those who want a bracing swim. They also have an outdoor heated Jacuzzi and relaxation terrace with two stone baths, allowing you to benefit from the refreshing sea air in comfort.

Inside the spa, the sauna, steam room and four treatment rooms – including a couple's treatment room – offer serene luxury in a light, peaceful space. The small but fully-equipped fitness room, complete with cross trainer, running machine and exercise bike, is an ideal space to work out and re-energise.



Day 3



Journey to Killarney

Today you will journey west to County Kerry, with a stop at Midleton Distillery Experience and Blarney Castle & Gardens on route. On arrival in Killarney, take a stroll around the town, or some of Killarney National Park if the weather is suitable. Continue on to The Europe Hotel, your home for the next two nights.



Midleton Distillery Experience

Home of six iconic brands, the passion behind every drop lives here. Immerse yourself in a world of rich heritage, craftsmanship, and unforgettable stories. The recently revamped experience is now bigger, warmer, brighter and offers much more choice; with exciting new bars, a café, and dedicated tasting rooms. Come face-to-face with the largest pot still in the world during the Midleton Distillery Experience Tour – a fully hosted tour through the original Midleton Distillery, bringing the stories of its rich heritage to life. You'll learn about the hard working people and field-to-glass processes responsible for the whiskeys that make up the six iconic brands Jameson, Redbreast, Powers, Midleton Very Rare, The Spot Whiskeys and Method and Madness.

On this tour, one of the friendly ambassadors will guide you around some of the key buildings, including the warehouses. The tour finishes with your chance to enjoy a guided comparative tasting of three famous whiskeys, including Jameson.



Blarney Castle & Gardens

Blarney Castle was built nearly 600 years ago by the great chieftain Cormac MacCarthy, Lord of Muskerry, known as "The Strong". While much of the structure is in ruins, there is no lack of things to see here. Blarney Castle grounds are filled with wooded hollows, 60 acres of sprawling parklands, strange rock formations and a glistening flowing river. At the heart of Blarney Castle lies one of its quirkiest attractions. Kissed by world statesmen, literary giants and films stars, the huge Blarney Stone is said to impart the gift of eloquence or "the gift of the gab". Explore the Fern Garden, with its limestone cliff that overlooks more than 80 types of ferns; make a wish on the famous Wishing Steps, while listening to the natural music of the nearby waterfall cascading against the rugged terrain; or stroll around the exotic Himalayan Walk.



Killarney, Co. Kerry

Known for its hospitality, Killarney is one of the warmest and most welcoming towns in the country. Feel instantly at home as you wander down the streets, grab a tasty meal and relax in a comfortable pub.

The town is part of Killarney National Park and the Ring of Kerry and is a fantastic place to base yourself as you explore the sublime beauty of the area. On its doorstep you will find some of Ireland's most scenic attractions Gap of Dunloe, Molls Gap, Lakes of Killarney, Muckross Park, Torc Waterfall, Ross Castle and many more.



The Europe Hotel & Resort (if available, 2 nights)

The Europe Hotel & Resort is a sublime destination five star hotel in Ireland. The beautiful surrounds of the world famous Lakes of Killarney makes The Europe an unrivalled leader of the luxury hotels in Ireland. Set amidst the lush panorama of 'The Kingdom' in Ireland's southwest, a stay at The Europe is luxury, relaxed. An unparalleled hotel and resort, discover this magical world away where relaxation, adventure and bliss await you in the extensive leisure offerings and decadent ESPA at The Europe.

This is where the magnificent scenery of Co. Kerry's MacGillycuddy's Reeks mountain range is reflected in the waters of Killarney's largest lake, Loch Léin, and every guest experiences the trademark warmth and welcome. No matter where you venture during your stay, the famous property will wow your senses. The Europe ushers in a new type of luxury hotel as a dining destination, hub of tradition and culture, and an absolutely singular resort retreat.

Nestled on the shores of Ireland's finest vista, with spectacular sweeping outlooks across the lakes, mountains, gardens and national parkland, the hotel is set like a jewel in the region's crown. From the elegant accommodation, comprising 180 bedrooms and suites, through to the panoramic views showcased on private balconies, and the trademark impeccable service, it will be an incomparable stay from the moment you arrive.

As an elevated hotel and resort with unlimited opportunities for adventure and serenity, the rugged beauty is yours to discover. Unwind, rejuvenate and explore everything right from the hotel's doorstep, enjoying their thoughtfully designed activities and amenities. The Europe's dedicated team is dedicated to personalised service that surpasses expectations. As one of the premier five star hotels in Ireland, they don't just meet standards - they deliver a hospitality experience that raises the bar for even the most seasoned local and global travellers.



Day 4



County Kerry Exploring

Today you have the option to do a day trip of the Ring of Kerry, or a day trip exploring the Dingle Peninsula, or visit some sites closer to Killarney, or else you might simply like to have a relaxing day enjoying your hotel's amenities.



Ring of Kerry

The Ring of Kerry, this is the name given to the scenic coastal drive around the Kerry peninsula, along the base of the highest mountain range in Ireland. Don't panic about the narrow roads along the way – the general unwritten rule of the Ring of Kerry is that all coaches travel around in only one direction – starting in Killarney. The 100-mile journey takes you through villages and towns depicting typical rural life in Ireland.



Moll's Gap

Nestled in the heart of County Kerry, Moll's Gap is a breathtaking mountain pass offering spectacular views of the MacGillycuddy's Reeks and the lush Black Valley. This picturesque spot, located along the famous Ring of Kerry route, is named after Moll Kissane, a local innkeeper known for her hospitality. Moll's Gap is a haven for photographers and nature lovers alike, with its sweeping vistas, rugged landscapes, and vibrant flora.

Visitors can enjoy a leisurely drive through the pass, stopping at the scenic lookout to capture the stunning panoramas. The area is also home to Avoca Handweavers, a charming shop and café where travelers can enjoy local crafts and delicious homemade treats. Moll's Gap is not just a visual feast but also a perfect spot to relax and soak in the serene beauty of Ireland's wild countryside.



Torc Waterfall

Torc Waterfall is a 20 metres high, 110 metres long cascade waterfall formed by the Owengarriff River as it drains from the Devil's Punchbowl corrie lake at Mangerton Mountain. The waterfall, which lies at the base of Torc Mountain, in the Killarney National Park, is 4.3 miles from Killarney in County Kerry, Ireland.



Day 5



Killarney to Galway

Leaving Killarney behind, you will journey north to County Clare to visit the Cliffs of Moher, before arriving at Glenlo Abbey, just outside of Galway city. You have the option to make other stops along the way like Lahinch, Doolin or Dunguaire Castle.



Shannon Ferry - Tarbert to Killimer

You will travel from Kerry to Clare via car ferry across the River Shannon, the longest river in Ireland, if you are lucky sometimes you can see dolphins swim along side the ferry.



Lahinch, Co. Clare

Lahinch or Lehinch is a small town on Liscannor Bay, on the northwest coast of County Clare. This sleepy, seaside, surf town comes to life in the summer with visitors coming from far and wide to play golf at Lahinch Golf Club, surf schools lining the seafront, with their students dotting the waves in yellow rash vests, and locals enjoying the good weather with a walk on Lahinch promenade.

While you're here, take a stroll down the promenade, grab an ice cream from a local shop or take a dip in the sea!



The Burren

There is no front gate that says you have arrived at The Burren. Instead you move slowly from being surrounded by green fields, to being immersed in a sea of limestone paving, framed only by the ocean. The Burren is a region that encompasses 360km² of gently inclined plateau with a further 200km² of lowland to the east of the plateau. The limestone is deeply fissured and most of the rivers have gone underground creating an extensive cave system.

Four thousand years of farming has largely denuded the country of trees and vegetation but the Burren is noted for the "opposite" contrasts of its flower population with Mediterranean and Alpine species flourishing side by side. More than 700 different flowering plants and ferns have been recorded in the Burren. The Burren may look rugged, but it is also a fragile place and is always under threat from increased human activity.

The coast road south of Black Head provides a fine view of the huge boulders, deposited at the end of the Ice Age which rest on the bare limestone pavement in fine weather the Aran Islands are visible offshore. Some of the many megalithic tombs in the Burren lie on the east side of the road between Aillwee and Leamaneh. Over the ages running water burrowing through the soft limestone of the Burren has created miles of dark caves and underground passages.



Cliffs of Moher

Visually spectacular, the Cliffs of Moher sit astride the striking landscape of the Burren on one side and the Wild Atlantic Ocean on the other. Rising out of the Atlantic waters to a height of over 700ft at O'Brien's Tower and running along the coast of Clare for almost 14 kilometres, or 8 miles, the Cliffs of Moher were formed over 320 million years ago, and today form part of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark. The Cliffs of Moher is in a Special Protection Area for Birds and Wildlife. The magnificent Cliffs on the Wild Atlantic Way host major colonies of nesting sea birds and are one of the country's most important bird-breeding sites.



Doolin, Co. Clare

Doolin is a charming small seaside village on the northwest coast of County Clare. Set against the rugged Atlantic Ocean and surrounded by the spectacular bare limestone landscape of the Burren, Doolin is a place of breathtaking beauty. Traditionally a fishing village, Doolin is now renowned world-wide as the traditional music capital of Ireland. Home to thousands of international visitors each year, Doolin is many things to many people. For some it is a place to experience rousing music sessions nightly in the pub and for others it is a place of solitude and tranquility where one can refresh their spirits away from the everyday hustle and bustle of life.



Dunguaire Castle

Perched on the shores of Galway Bay, Dunguaire Castle is one of Ireland's most photographed landmarks. Built in 1520 by the O'Hynes clan, the 75-foot tower house is steeped in legend and literary history — it was once a gathering place for writers like W.B. Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, and J.M. Synge. Today, visitors can explore its restored halls, climb its winding staircases, and enjoy spectacular views across the bay.

Dunguaire Castle is currently closed for restoration and no opening time has been given at this stage, but it's still a worthwhile photo stop with an Irish castle!



Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate (if available, 2 nights)

Majestically rising from the still waters of Lough Corrib and dating back to the 18th Century, the 5 star Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate is where old-world charm meets contemporary elegance.

Home to The Pullman, now proudly holding its first Michelin Star, is housed in two former carriages from the Orient Express and each with their own distinct history and style, this restaurant is one of the most unique dining experiences one can enjoy.

The River Room Restaurant in the main hotel offers magnificent views from the bay windows overlooking the estate and Lough Corrib, whilst private dining can be arranged in the unique reception rooms of the main house and abbey.

The estate is also a haven for golf enthusiasts with a 9-hole championship golf course set on the banks of Lough Corrib and a newly refurbished 21-bay Trackman Driving Range.

From the moment you drive through the magnificent cast-iron gates, the beauty of this enchanting lakeside estate will captivate you.



Day 6



Galway Exploring

After breakfast, you will have a Falconry experience on the grounds of Glenlo Estate. In the early afternoon, you'll make your way into the city to explore the medieval city and to see some of the highlights, as well as perhaps doing some shopping or paying a visit to one of the city's many pubs.



Falconry - Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate

This long-standing tradition can be experienced on the lush grounds of Glenlo Abbey Hotel & Estate. Come up close and personal with a variety of birds of prey within the 138-acre estate, while guided by one of Ireland's best Master Falconers. This offering includes both one to one private hawk walks, where guests can enjoy time with several different birds of prey, or display shows for larger groups.



Galway City, Co. Galway

Galway city is the gateway to the west of Ireland with the beautiful Connemara Gaeltacht area on its doorstep. Galway is rich in Irish culture and offers visitors a warm welcome and a promise that one visit will never be enough! The historic city of the tribes dances to a beat uniquely it's own. Music, festivals, horse racing, pubs, restaurants, shops, theatres and most of all Galway people, combine to create this atmospheric medieval city of culture.



The Spanish Arch

Positioned on the left bank of the Corrib River, The Spanish Arch is one of Galway's historical gems, dating back to pre-medieval times.

The Spanish Arch was built in 1584 but is an extension of the 12th century Norman -built town wall, which stretched from Martin's Tower to the riverbank. It housed soldiers who kept watch and manned cannons on the roof. Constructed by Wylliam Martin, the 34th mayor of Galway, it was first known as Ceann an Bhalla ('the head of the wall') but later became known as the Spanish Arch. This misnomer is thought to be a reference to the former merchant trade with Spain and Spanish galleons, which often docked here. In medieval times, European ships carrying cargo of wine and spices sold their goods at the docks. In fact, Christopher Columbus visited in 1477.

In 1755, The Spanish Arch was partially destroyed by a tsunami. In the 1800s, the Eyre family added the Long Walk extension. Until 2006, The Spanish Arch housed the Galway City Museum, which has now moved to a new location 50 yards away behind the original museum building.

If you walk under the arch, past the Galway City Museum, you will continue on to the famed 'Long Walk' - which you may recognise from the Ed Sheeran 'Galway Girl' music video, **or** it may sound familiar from the famous Steve Earl song of the same name "I took a stroll down the old Long Walk on the day-l-ay-l-ay...".



Galway Cathedral

Galway Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh & Kilfenora.

The Cathedral of Galway was dedicated on 15 August 1965, and as such is the youngest of Europe's great stone cathedrals. It is dedicated to Our Lady Assumed into Heaven and Saint Nicholas.



Latin Quarter Galway

The Latin Quarter of Galway City extends from the Spanish Arch to O'Brien's Bridge to St Nicholas' Church to Middle Street and features many well fine examples of the city's medieval heritage. It is home to many of Galway's best known shops, pubs, restaurants and hotels along with historic buildings. All along the short cobblestoned stretch of the road, known as High Street are small, interesting unique shops. Kilkenny Shop has a good range of goods, especially knits and pottery.

Situated just off Cross Street, Kirwan's Lane features the best of Galway's medieval heritage. The Lane, which stood in ruins for many years, has been recently revamped and restored to its former splendor. It was here in the late 18th century that Richard Martin built a 100 seat theatre for his wife. The theatre saw many acclaimed performances in its day, and among those to tread the boards were the rebel patriot, Theobald Wolfe Tone, Richard Martin himself, and his wife. Other notable buildings on the Lane were two nunneries. Kirwan's Lane which is home to many fine gifts shops including Judy Greenes Pottery, Tempo Antiques, Cloon Keen Atelier Candles and many more.



Day 7



Connemara Adventures

After checking out of your hotel, you'll start your day with a visit to Aughnacore Castle. Then you will journey into the Connemara region, with photo stops along the way, with a visit to Kylemore Abbey. Leaving here, you'll continue on to Leenane village (option to stop) before driving on to Westport via Doolough Valley and passing Croagh Patrick on route.



Aughnacore Castle

Connemara's best preserved late-medieval tower house, Aughnacore Castle is beautifully positioned on a rocky outcrop overhanging the Drimneen River, close to the western shores of Lough Corrib.

Built in the late-fifteenth century, the castle served as the stronghold of the O'Flaherty Gaelic lords of Iarchonnacht (West Connacht) for over two centuries. Its location on water is in keeping with the O'Flaherty tradition of building their strongholds with access to lakes, rivers and coastline. The tower house stands as a testament to what was once the most powerful and influential force in the late-medieval Gaelic lordship of Iarchonnacht, and is a visible statement of the family's prestige and status on an important route-way to the Corrib.

Constructed in at least two phases, Aughnacore consists of the earlier fifteenth century tower house and surrounding inner walled enclosure or bawn, along with the later sixteenth century outer bawn, banqueting hall and other buildings.

Aughnacore fell in and out of O'Flaherty hands on many occasions throughout the centuries and ultimately, fell to Peadar O'Flaherty who gifted Aughnacore to the State in 1952. A restoration and conservation programme followed in the 1960s with the site opening to the public in 1974.



Connemara, Co. Galway

Discover the wild and beautiful region of Connemara today. Connemara, made famous by a number of well-known movies – such as the John Wayne movie – “The Quiet Man”, and more recently “The Field”. Connemara is a wild and beautiful region of mountains, lakes, tumbling streams, undulating bog, unspoilt beaches and panoramic views. It is a Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) region. The centre of Connemara is composed of mountain peaks, the Twelve Bens or Pins, which culminate in Benbaun.

Connemara is an area of unspoiled beauty within County Galway. Many outdoor events such as walking, fishing, golfing and cycling can be enjoyed here.



Kylemore Abbey and Gardens

Located just over one hour from Galway City, Kylemore Abbey is one of Ireland's top tourist attractions. Experience woodland and lakeshore walks, magnificent buildings and Ireland's largest Walled Garden. Enjoy wholesome food and delicious home-baking in the Café or Garden Tea House. History talks take place three times a day in the Abbey and tours of the Walled Garden take place throughout the summer. Discover the beauty, history, and romance of Ireland's most intriguing estate in the heart of the Connemara countryside.



Leenane Village

Nestled between mountains and Ireland's only natural fjord, the village of Leenane is a worthwhile place to stop and not simply pass through.

The village is quite famous in Ireland (less so internationally) as it was the main filming location for the Irish classic film 'The Field' - one of the two local pubs here is aptly named The Field Bar (Gaynor's Bar), the other one being Hamilton's Bar. The village is of course also famous because it is at the mouth of Killary Fjord. It doesn't matter if the tide is in or out, or if the weather is sunny or broody; this is a worthwhile photo stop.

Between the fjord, the pubs, the cafés, the little shops and the Connemara Sheep and Wool Centre - there is something for everyone here. Whether you are looking for a bite to eat, a scenic place to stretch your legs, an excuse to grab a tasty Irish coffee or a place to do some nice souvenir or gift shopping, this little village has it all.



Croagh Patrick

Croagh Patrick, a soaring cone-shaped peak that rises above Clew Bay in Co Mayo, is where the Irish have always turned for guidance and reassurance before the harvest. People have been coming for well over 3,000 years, since Neolithic ancestors first recognised its potency as a sacred site.

Croagh Patrick is the perfect spot to experience a sense of the inclusive, exultant form of early Irish Christianity when it was still infused with the innate love of nature – the Pagan biophilia - of the Irish people.

It's hard not be moved by the courage St Patrick showed by coming here to battle what he regarded as pagan darkness and to bring the Irish into the light of Christianity.

If you're interested in climbing the mountain, it takes about 3-4 hours to climb up and down, on average. A statue of St Patrick (pictured below) is located a few minutes walk from the car park if you'd like to make a short stop at the base of the mountain.



Westport, Co. Mayo

Westport, designated one of Fáilte Ireland's Heritage Towns, is situated in the shadow of Croagh Patrick, overlooking Clew Bay. One of the few planned towns in the Country, Westport was designed in the 18th Century by James Wyatt. It has become one of Ireland's established tourism centres, with many outstanding features, most notably the beautiful tree lined boulevard known as The Mall, running parallel to the Carrowbeg River.



The Grace (if available, 2 nights)

Newly opened, The Grace, Westport Estate is one of Ireland's most anticipated luxury hotel additions, bringing a new level of five-star hospitality to the West of Ireland. The hotel has registered for five-star status and is set to become one of the county's premier luxury destinations. Set within the stunning 430-acre Westport Estate, this elegant new retreat blends contemporary design with the rich heritage and natural beauty of Mayo. The hotel has registered for five-star status and is already establishing itself as one of the region's premier luxury destinations.

Inspired by the timeless spirit of Grace O'Malley and Grace Kelly, the 129-bedroom hotel offers a sophisticated yet welcoming atmosphere, with beautifully designed guestrooms and suites featuring rich natural tones, oak furnishings, woven textures and locally inspired artwork throughout.

Dining at The Grace celebrates the very best of Irish seasonal produce and West Coast flavours, with stylish restaurant and bar spaces designed for relaxed luxury and memorable experiences.

The highly anticipated Grace Spa & Wellness due to open July 2026, offering a tranquil sanctuary focused on relaxation, renewal and wellbeing. Created in collaboration with Irish wellness brand GROUND, the spa will feature six treatment rooms, relaxation areas, wellness experiences, and luxury treatments inspired by the Atlantic landscape and the spirit of the West of Ireland.



Day 8



Mayo Adventures

If you like, you can start your day off with a walking tour to learn more about this storied little town. You then have the option between spending the day in Westport town, shopping or enjoying a spa treatment, **or** you could take a ferry to Clare Island **or** drive to Achill Island.



Westport Walking Tours

While in Westport, you could book onto a 1 hour walking tour of the lively town.

Led by fun, energetic local guides in yellow, this immersive guided tour of Westport brings the town's history, legends, and hidden gems to life. Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning to explore more, this is the ideal introduction to Westport.

From Georgian architecture to pirate tales, local characters to secret spots most visitors walk right past, you'll experience Westport through the eyes of a passionate local expert.



Clare Island & Clare Island Whiskey

A tiny island off the west coast of Ireland with dramatic scenery, Clare Island, historically known as Inishcleer, is a mountainous island guarding the entrance to Clew Bay in County Mayo, Ireland. Once part of the kingdom of Umhaill, it is famous as the home of the 16th century pirate queen Grainuaile or Grace O'Malley.

Clare Island Whiskey offers packages that include ferry tickets, a guided tour of the island with a local, along with a taxi transfer to see some more of the island and some snacks, with the option to add on a whiskey tasting. Visit Grace O'Malley's Castle and the 12th century Cistercian Abbey (said to be the final resting place of the famous Pirate Queen).

If you're looking for an experience a little bit different, and off the beaten track - look no further than this day trip!



Achill Island

Achill Island lies off County Mayo on the west coast of the Republic of Ireland. Marked by rugged mountains and peat bogs, the island is known for its tall sea cliffs and clean beaches. Its breezy shoreline makes it a popular spot for water sports.

The strand (beach) at Keem Bay inspired visiting writers Heinrich Böll and Graham Greene. Keel, the island's main village, has a sandy surf beach.

Nowadays, Achill has a new claim to fame, having featured in the Academy Award-nominated movie, *The Banshees of Inisherin*.

Achill is connected to the mainland by a bridge, so you can drive on to the island - there's no ferries necessary for this island!



Matt Molloy's Pub

Enjoy an evening of traditional Irish Music at the Famous Matt Molloy's Pub. This cosy and traditional pub is a hub known for its traditional music performances. Enjoy an authentic Irish experience with a pint and a tune!





Dublin Exploration

After check out, you will travel east to Dublin city. On arrival in the city, you might like to grab a lighter lunch, before heading off on a walking tour of the city. Spend the evening at leisure in the city, possibly doing some last minute shopping or visiting a local pub.



Dublin City, Co. Dublin

Dublin is one of Europe's most vibrant cities. Over a thousand years old, the turbulent history and rich traditions of the city have inspired writers, artists and musicians down the ages. Today, artists are still attracted by Dublin's youthful enthusiasms and easy-going lifestyle and the city has become a thriving center of culture and enjoyment. The new wave of cafes and restaurants are meeting places for all ages while traditional Dublin pubs are rightly world-famous for their informal atmosphere and lively conversation. The city oozes atmosphere, not least in the heady scents that cling to it – the rich aroma of the hops being roasted in the Guinness brewery and the salty tang of the sea. Nighttime entertainment is a rich mix of world-class theater, concerts from classical to rock, jazz clubs, traditional music sessions and old-style cabaret.

Above all, Dublin is a small city, where visitors can feel at home after even the shortest stay.



The Best of Dublin Walking Tour – Highlights & Hidden Corners

This walk takes you to many of Dublin's historic icons and brings you to some wonderful hidden spots too. If you are looking for a comprehensive tour that introduces you to the best of the city centre, on both sides of the River Liffey, then this is the tour for you. Starting from Dame Street you will wind your way through Temple Bar, onto an early bridge over the River Liffey, before visiting the former Viking & Medieval Quarter. Then passing by Dublin Castle, you will head through interesting side streets and laneways to Grafton Street. The tour will conclude in the bustling College Green surrounded by several institutions of great importance.

All these places certainly have their interesting histories, but the human stories often associated with them capture more than just mere dates and events. The dedicated guides, personally trained by local historian and author Pat Liddy, will share their love for the city with you and hopefully make you feel like a true Dubliner.



Grafton Street & St. Stephen's Green Shopping Centre

Grafton Street, Dublin is one of the Europe's busiest shopping streets. It is also dubbed as "Ireland's Premier Trading Street". St. Stephen's Green offers walkable shopping options, all while surrounded by stunning modern architecture. Be right in the middle of Dublin's biggest shops, restaurants, and more!



The Merrion Hotel (if available, 1 night)

The Merrion, located in the heart of Dublin city centre, is the capital's most luxurious five star hotel. This 5 star luxury hotel is to be found in the heart of Georgian Dublin, opposite Government Buildings and a few minutes' walk from galleries, museums, the I.F.S.C, Dublin Convention Centre, pubs, restaurants and the shops of Grafton Street.

The 142-bedroom and suite hotel is as welcoming as it is stylish. An impeccable restoration of four Georgian townhouses, The Merrion is a marriage of exquisite comfort, relaxed elegance and advanced guest facilities, including free Wi-Fi, an 18m pool, spa and gym.

Dublin may have changed a lot since the 1760s, but the original rooms and suites of the most luxurious 5 star hotel in Dublin have been restored to their original glory, and are redolent of that glittering age.

Delicate rococo plasterwork by master stuccodore Robert West, vaulted ceilings and original marble fireplaces are just some of the features that await guests behind the doors of the elegant rooms and suites in the Main House.

The Merrion offers a choice of eating options, from the casual gastro-pub menu served in The Cellar Bar, to the modern Irish cuisine of The Garden Room and the fine-dining experience at Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud, the first restaurant in Ireland to hold 2 Michelin stars.

In addition to The Cellar Bar, set in the original 18th Century wine vaults of the Main House and a popular after-work meeting place, The Merrion is also home to an intimate cocktail bar, No. 23, its clubby ambience conducive to relaxed conversation.

During the spring and summer months, guests can enjoy the tranquility of the Garden Terrace, while the Drawing Rooms, with their open log fires, are perfect for Afternoon Tea at any time of year.



Day 10



Departure - Dublin Airport

Today, a private transfer driver will collect you from your hotel and bring you to Dublin Airport, where you will board your departure flight home.

Slán go fóill! (Bye for now!)

