

One Day Tour Options – IALP Dublin 2016

Book online at www.ialpdublin2016.org

**Note Tour details are subject to change within the itineraries provided below.*

Cliffs of Moher Day Tour - €45 per person

The best Cliffs of Moher day tour leaves from at 6:50 am and you are back in Dublin by 7:30 at the latest that evening. You are on a circular route so that you do not see the same scenery twice the whole day. This gives you the opportunity to see new things each time you look out the window. It is important that you get time off the bus during the day so we try and maximise your off the bus experience as much as possible. You will be travelling the width of Ireland and while it's not the biggest country in the world, it will take roughly 3 hours to get over to the city of Limerick. The detailed itinerary is below. You will see that it is a full day of excitement and fun and you will get the most out of your time seeing wonderful scenery, castles, wild remote limestone regions and of course the famous Cliffs of Moher, not to mention Galway Bay, the Curragh, the Treaty Stone, Dunguaire Castle, Fanore Beach, the Burren, Bunratty Castle, King John's Castle, the cultural villages of Ballyvaughan and Ennistymon, Lahinch beach, sites where the Spanish Armada visited, the traditional village of Doolin famous for its music. A packed day but worth the trip!



0650 DEPARTURE

You will be collected from the CityWest Hotel early! Ensure you have your appropriate attire- rubber soled shoes and rain gear (just in case!). Meet the other participants on the tour and guide as you head west across to the west coast You will get to see the Curragh Racecourse and also some of the castles on the way.

1000hr LIMERICK

Arrive in the city of Limerick where we will take a short break to view King John's Castle across the River Shannon, then travel through the streets of this historic city on our way to County Clare. You will stop at the Treaty Stone where you will learn the real history behind this great city and the battles between the Irish and the English.

1130hr CLIFFS OF MOHER

Arrive at the Cliffs of Moher and take some time out walking around this unique landmark, enjoying the amazing cliffs and its surroundings. Spend an hour and a half at this magnificent sight! Entrance to the site and the option to view an interactive show inside the visitor centre is included in the price

1300HR BREAK

Time to head for Doolin village for lunch. Usually we have lunch at Fitzpatrick's Pub in Doolin. Really good fish in here or try the chowder! This village is renowned for its Irish music and friendly locals and is just up the road from Lisdoonvarna, famous for its annual matchmaking festival. **Lunch is not included in the ticket price.**

1400hr BURREN

After lunch, depart for a small trek around the karst region of the Burren. The Burren is famous worldwide for its diverse and wonderful fauna that you'll come across on your tour. Watch out for the orchids and the beautiful gentian blue flowers!

1630hr GALWAY BAY ROUTE

Travel via Galway bay on our way back to Dublin with a photo stop at Dunguaire Castle in Kinvara. You will also get to visit Corcomroe Abbey, a 13th century abbey in a beautiful setting.

1930hr Arrive Home

Arrive back in Dublin around 7:30pm at the latest with great memories!

CONNEMARA DAY TOUR - €45 per person



On the tour, you'll have the unique opportunity to view the remarkable sights and scenery that Connemara has to offer. You're bound to feel elated having the wild Atlantic Ocean on one side and the impressive Twelve Bens and Maumturk mountain ranges on the other! Connemara is truly one of the most breathtaking and mysterious regions in all the land! The endless landscape of the enchanting Emerald Isle will be a cherished memory for years to come. During your travels, our guides will educate you on the region's flora and fauna as well as the intriguing history and mythology of this picturesque area. From the very moment you arrive, the mesmerizing beauty of the Connemara National Park will undoubtedly leave you speechless!

0630 DEPART DUBLIN

You will be collected from the CityWest Hotel early and transferred to a larger coach in Dublin City Centre. Ensure you have your appropriate attire- rubber soled shoes and rain gear (just in case!). Meet the other participants on the tour and guide.

0900 ARRIVE GALWAY

As we drive through Galway we take the road for Oughterard, said to be the official gateway to Connemara. On the road you will pass beautiful thatched cottages, wild flowers along the hedgerows and not forgetting lots of sheep ! Connemara is part of the county of Galway, but is seen as a separate place which hold no boarders. You will also pass the famous Quite Man bridge from the Hollywood film starring John Wayne.

1100 GAELTHACTH

As we drive on we will travel through the gaelthacht area.

1130 THE INAGH VALLEY/KYLEMORE ABBEY

Next we travel through one of Connemara's most beautiful places, The Inagh Valley. You will be guaranteed to lose your mobile reception along here which is a welcomed break from the outside world as you relax and take in the amazing views. You are so far west that in these parts Sheep have right of way on the roads !! Our next stop is Kylemore Abbey, a romantic castle built among an equally beautiful landscape. Originally built as a home, and later turned into a boarding school for girls, today Kylemore abbey is Connemara's biggest tourist attraction visited by millions every year. We will stop for a photo stop here before we move on to Killary harbour.

1230 KILARY FJORD

We now head off towards "Killary Fjord" which is the only fjord in all the land! Upon arriving, you'll marvel at all the thriving mussel beds while looking out towards Mweelrea, the highest mountain range in the west coast of Ireland. This tour offers a 1.5hour boat cruise down Killary harbour. During these months your lunch stop will be on the boat. **Lunch is purchased before departure.**

1400 VILLAGE OF LEENANE TO GALWAY CITY

We will hop on the bus again for our trip to the little village of Leenane where the enigmatic movie "The Field" was filmed. This story of The Bull McCabe really instils in you how land is in every Irish persons mindset. We will be driving in a circular route that will take in a picture stop of the Sheefry Hills before making our way back to Maum and then onto Galway City.

1630 GALWAY CITY

Spend an hour walking & sightseeing around Galway city before departing back for Dublin. Visit the main shopping district. Walk down to the busy harbour and see the Spanish Arch. Galway is a bohemian and happy city with a very young population. Home to the Claddagh Ring and 14 families, there is amazing history in this city. This was the last place Christopher Columbus visited before making his way over to the West Indies.

2000 ARRIVE TO DUBLIN

Cork/Blarney Castle - €55 per person



Ireland's second city, although the people that reside there believe that it is the "real" capital! Located right at the southern tip of Ireland, Cork is known for its historical landmarks and vibrant cultural scene. This tour will take you on a voyage through history as you visit a castle, a monastery and Cork city itself. We provide ample time for you to explore Blarney Castle and the Rock of Cashel and to relax in the surrounding gardens. You travel on a circular route so that you do not see the same scenery twice the whole day. This gives you the opportunity to see new things each time you look out the window. You will be travelling directly south to visit Cork city. The detailed itinerary is below.

650 DEPARTURE

You will be collected from the CityWest Hotel early. Ensure you have your appropriate attire- rubber soled shoes and rain gear (just in case!). Meet the other participants on the tour and guide.

We'll pass an area called The Curragh in County Kildare. This area is ideal for training horses, due to the sandy soil that creates excellent drainage, making it an ideal spot for horse racing. Not surprisingly, the Curragh race track is situated nearby. Close to Kildare Town, you will find the National Stud Farm, world famous for its horse breeding, coupled with the lovely Japanese Gardens.

0845 KNOCKMEALDOWN MOUNTAINS

After a short stop over to stretch our legs, we pass the Knockmealdown Mountains, made famous by the folk song "Kitty Borne O'Brien". This song is a lover's lament for a young woman who emigrates from Ireland to Canada. Like most Irish songs it is either about a broken heart or fighting with the English! Further along the way, we will see the Galtee Mountains, Ireland's highest inland mountain range, with its stony scree-covered summit- but more on the Galtee's under our "Of special interest" section. This is also a famous cheese making area in Ireland. Tipperary is also home to hurling although Kilkenny their neighbour seems to beat them most of the time! Keep your eyes out for handball alleys while on the bus, a traditional sport played mostly in rural Ireland.

1030 BLARNEY CASTLE

We arrive at Blarney Castle and half the day's driving is already done! Blarney Castle, famous for its Blarney Stone, also has lovely wooded walks and "Rock Close"- a garden filled with Druidic rock formations, believed to be dating back to pre-historic times. To kiss the stone, you have to bend backwards when on the parrifits of the castle, holding onto iron railings- basically hanging upside down. The reward for your efforts: to be bestowed with the so-called "Gift of the gab."

1230 ARRIVE IN CORK CITY

We arrive in Cork City, where we have 2 hours to maybe grab some lunch at the English Market (now with a very international flavour), go marvel at the Gothic St. Finbar's Cathedral, or even ring the bells of Shandon at St. Anne's Church for a small fee. Cork is home to Murphy's Ale and the Ford Tractor factor.

1645 ARRIVE AT THE ROCK OF CASHEL

At the Rock of Cashel, we visit this great Celtic Cathedral, which include the Hall of Vicars, Cormack's Chapel, which has one of Ireland's oldest Romanesque wall paintings and the Round tower, all perched on a solid rock ringed by a curtain wall. This Rock of Cashel, is the seat of the archbishop of the diocese of Cashel and is the sight where the historical synod of Cashel. It dates back from before there Anglo-Norman conquerors and contains an amazing collection of architecture, history and Romanesque art.

1730 DEPART ROCK OF CASHEL

We depart from the Rock of Cashel and return to Dublin, maybe listening to some Irish music and reflecting on the day's experiences.

1930 ARRIVE BACK IN DUBLIN

GIANTS CAUSEWAY DAY TOUR - €65



The Giant's Causeway day tour transports you to the very northern point of Ireland where you see one of Ireland's 7 Wonders and some of the most breathtaking sights and scenery Northern Ireland has to offer. Traveling along some of the most dramatic coastline in Ireland, you'll learn Irish history from a passionate guide and have the chance to take photos of some of the most beautiful locations in the world!

The Giant's Causeway is Ireland's first World Heritage site and the story of its formation is fascinating, whether you prefer the scientific explanation or the one involving a trick played on a giant! Breathe in the fresh northern air at the Causeway and explore the unique rock formations that are shrouded in mystery and myth. Can you draw up the courage of a lion to cross the famous Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge? Or maybe a leisurely stroll along the beautiful sweeping beach looking out on Whitepark Bay and Portbradden is more your idea of heaven. The north coast of County Antrim is deeply rooted in history and legend and on your Giant's Causeway day tour with us you can experience it all!

0630 DEPART DUBLIN

You will be collected from the CityWest Hotel early and transferred to a larger coach in Dublin City Centre. Ensure you have your appropriate attire- rubber soled shoes and rain gear (just in case!). Meet the other participants on the tour and guide.

We will make our way north out of Dublin City heading for Belfast as our adventure begins. We then take the very scenic coast road from Larne and see the famous Causeway coastal road for the first time. This drive can be thought of as Ireland's great ocean road, it is called the 'Glens of Antrim' road and passes through quaint villages on the way with views unmatched anywhere else in Ireland.

1130 "Carrick a Rede" rope bridge

We will arrive at the renowned "Carrick a Rede" rope bridge and spend about an hour taking the winding coastal path to take up our position and prepare to cross over this historical walkway. The rope bridge is run by the National Trust and as our support for this organisation we include the price of the bridge in our tour. As you cross over to the island there are amazing views looking out over the Mull of Kintyre in Scotland and Rathlin Island. It is a 20 minute walk from the car park to the rope bridge and you may get to see some of the coastal wildlife on the way as your stomach builds up for the leap of faith over the rope bridge!

1300 LUNCH & GIANTS CAUSEWAY

Now that we have worked up a hunger after our walk we will go to a local cafe or pub for lunch (at own cost) before we make our way to the famous Giants Causeway. Along the route we will pass through the picturesque village of Ballintoy. You will also see the fantastic views over Whiteparks Bay and Portbradden. When you arrive at the Giants Causeway we recommend walking the top cliffs so you get a good view of the causeway on the way and then descending to the feature called the Organ and working your way back towards the visitor centre. You will be not be disappointed with this natural wonder of the world. During your time here you can have lunch in one of the local pubs.

We will **hop on the bus again at 3:00pm** approx for our trip to the great city of Belfast. We will be driving in a circular route that will take in a picture stop of Dunluce Castle, the most romantic castle in Ireland and home for many years to the McDonnell Clan, check out the section for more details. Dunluce Castle is reputed to be the inspiration for Cair Paravel, the famous castle in CS Lewis' The Chronicles of Narnia. Passing by the village of Bushmills where Ireland's first hydro power station was built, there is a train that runs along the coast from here and let us not forget the great bottle of whiskey that is made here!

1700 BELFAST CITY

Spend an hour walking & sightseeing around Belfast city before departing back for Dublin. Visit the main shopping district. See the Titanic Quarter and Belfast City Hall.

2000 ARRIVE IN DUBLIN Arrive back in Dublin to reminisce about your fun filled Giants Causeway day tour!