



All Travel, All the Time



EXPLORATIONS

A CONNECTION TO CULTURE

Join Star-Light Travel, LeAnn & Greg Starner

The Best of Ireland ~ Preliminary Itinerary

September 2028

Highlights...Dublin • Jeanie Johnston Famine Ship • EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum • Hillsborough Castle • Belfast • Culinary Walking Tour • Soda Bread Making • Giant's Causeway • Derry • Blessingbourne Estate • Boatyard Distillery • Galway • Kilkenny • Hurling Experience

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Rocky coasts, animated pubs, a storied past, and endless green hills – where else but Ireland? Experience the country like never before, visiting the traditional sites you'd expect as well as a few off-the-beaten path spots you couldn't find on your own. Connect with the locals, connect with your roots, and connect with the Emerald Isle.

Day 2: Dublin, Ireland

Arrive in Dublin, a city rich with layered history and lively culture. With no planned activities today, the time is yours to explore independently. This evening, meet your fellow travelers and toast the start of your journey with dinner at a local restaurant. *Today dinner will be included.*

Day 3: Dublin

Join a local expert on a walk through Dublin's lively streets, gaining insight into the historic places and modern culture of this eclectic city. After free time for lunch, delve into stories of Irish emigration. Follow in the footsteps of those who fled the famine as you board the Jeanie Johnston, a replica museum ship. At EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, trace the history of how more than 10 million people left Ireland over the centuries and its influence on the world. The evening is yours to explore on your own. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 4: Dublin - Belfast, Northern Ireland

This morning, cross the border into Northern Ireland and enjoy a visit to Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, Northern Ireland's royal residence. Afterward, it's on to Belfast, a buzzing capital city. Kick it off by meeting up with local foodies for a culinary walking tour, enjoying Belfast's flavors as you explore the city. After checking into your hotel, the rest of the evening is yours to further immerse yourself in Belfast's vibrant scene. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 5: Belfast

Start your day with a visit to the farmhouse home of a local in Killinchy. After a hands-on lesson in making your own soda bread, be treated to a lunch with homegrown produce from the farmhouse garden. This afternoon, enjoy free time to discover Belfast at your leisure. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 6: Belfast - Giant's Causeway - Derry - Donegal

Visit the ethereal Giant's Causeway, walking in the footsteps of mythical legends. Marvel at the hexagonal basalt slabs, that according to legend, were formed by gargantuan beasts crossing the crashing waves. Next, make your way to Derry, a growing artistic and cultural hub. On a guided walking tour, delve into the complex history of this city once gripped by the conflict known as the Troubles. Later on, we will arrive in the pretty town of Donegal and gather for dinner tonight. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 7: Donegal

Set out to explore the Wild Atlantic Way. Visit the Slieve League Cliffs, offering stunning views over the Sligo Mountains and Donegal Bay. Three times higher than the Cliffs of Moher, these iconic cliffs are amongst the highest and most scenic in Europe. Then, take in the beauty of Killybegs, Ireland's largest fishing port, on a short harbor cruise before finishing the day back in Donegal. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 8: Donegal - Enniskillen, Northern Ireland

This morning, meet the Lowry family, owners of the Blessingbourne Estate. Get a peek inside the private living quarters of Blessingbourne House and hear how this wonderful property has been passed through generations of the same family, all whilst enjoying their Irish hospitality. Enjoy free time for lunch upon arriving in Enniskillen, a charming island town. This afternoon, visit a local gin distillery on the banks Lough Erne and discover how this family business has grown into an integral part of the local community. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 9: Enniskillen - Sligo, Ireland - Galway

Arrive in Sligo, the place that inspired poet W.B. Yeats. Visit the 13th century abbey and take some time to explore the local shops and eateries. Continue the journey to Galway, a lively city of medieval relics and modern flair. Tonight, dinner is at a local pub. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 10: Galway

The day is yours. Perhaps you'll pop into a pub for a drink with the locals, or peruse one of the city's many museums, or go shopping along bustling Quay Street. Consider taking an optional tour to Kylemore Abbey, where you'll drive through Connemara National Park before embarking on a tour of the monastery. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 11: Galway – Bunratty - Cork

Peek into Irish culture at a sheep farm, where you'll watch a sheepdog herding demonstration and meet the friendly canine workers. Next, visit Bunratty Folk Park, a living history museum in County Clare, which recreates the 19th century Irish village including farmhouses, shops, and streets, all brought to life by costumed characters and demonstrations. Later, arrive in the vibrant city of Cork, famous for its riverside walks and 18th century English Market. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 12: Cork

This morning, meet a local guide to explore Cork, Ireland's second city, on a three-hour walking tour showing off its mix of historic architecture, bustling markets, and scenic waterways. After lunch at a garden café, experience an **Impact Moment** with a visit to Nano Nagle Place. During a guided tour, learn about how this important school empowers people through education, inclusion, and spiritual engagement, and wander the site's walled gardens and award-winning museum. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 13: Cork - Kilkenny

Today, enjoy a lunch at a traditional Irish pub, owned by the same family for 200 years. Listen to stories about the family ancestors, and the social role that pubs play within rural communities. Afterwards, watch a hurling demonstration, a traditional sport of Ireland, with the opportunity to participate yourself! Continue to Kilkenny, one of Ireland's most charming cities. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 14: Kilkenny

This morning, **it's your choice!** Enjoy a leisurely day exploring the town and Kilkenny Castle on your own **OR** travel just outside of town to the ruins of Jerpoint Abbey, a Cistercian abbey founded in the 12th century. You will also attend a captivating demonstration at a family-owned glass company and learn about the important role Kilkenny plays in Irish design and craftsmanship. No matter what activities fill your day, come together in the evening for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *Sláinte! Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 15: Kilkenny – Tour Ends

Wish the Emerald Isle goodbye as you depart for home. *Today breakfast will be included.*

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss-a-thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (23 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two and a half hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuktuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Cultural Connections

- Be immersed in stories of Irish emigration at the Jeanie Johnston famine ship and EPIC Museum in Dublin.
- Explore Cork's Nano Nagle Place and its dedication to empowering people through education and spirituality.
- Meet the owners of Blessingbourne Estate and learn the fascinating history of their family home.

Must-See Highlights

- Experience the ethereal landscape of Giant's Causeway.
- Learn about Derry's political history during a locally guided city tour.
- Visit Boatyard Distillery, a family-run business on the banks of Lough Erne.

Culinary Experiences

- Taste new Irish cuisine on a culinary walking tour in Belfast.
- Savor the traditional flavors of Ireland in a local pub.
- Make your own soda bread in a farmhouse kitchen.

COST INCLUDES:

- Round-trip Flights
- Gratuities for meals, tourist guides, drivers
- Meals as specified - 13 breakfasts (B), 4 lunches (L), 5 dinners (D)
- Group T-shirt
- Document Meeting

ACCOMMODATIONS (subject to change):

Day 1 - Overnight Flight

Days 2, 3 - Hyatt Centric The Liberties, Dublin

Days 4, 5 - Europa Hotel, Belfast

Days 6, 7 - Mill Park Hotel, Donegal

Day 8 - Lough Erne Resort, Enniskillen

Days 9, 10 - The Connacht Hotel, Galway

Days 11, 12 - The River Lee Hotel, Cork

Days 13, 14 - Lyrath Estate, Kilkenny

ESTIMATED GROUP PER PERSON PRICING: (BASED ON MINIMUM OF 10 PASSENGERS)

Double = \$10,225 (subject to change once 2028 dates/prices become available)

PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Space is limited to 24 seats!

Reserve Now to hold your seat with LeAnn and the rest of the group. The deposit required to confirm your seat = \$700 per person. Please give deposit check to LeAnn made payable to Krouse Travel or mail to 1284 Greensprings Drive, York, PA 17402, Attn: Krista Getz.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Once 2028 final information is available, should you choose not to travel, your full deposit will be refunded. You will have 7 days from the date the final information is available to cancel. After 7 days, the deposit paid becomes non-refundable.

****Proof of citizenship in the form of a valid Passport is required. Names must appear on documents exactly as appearing on Passport. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the tour return date.**

To book, contact Krouse Travel, Krista Getz, kgetz@krousetravel.com or 717-244-6410.