

Itinerary Prepared : Gourmet Tour of Ireland

Date : March 06, 2009

Itinerary Reference : ICTS000641

Details

Your Itinerary runs from **01 May 2009** to **09 May 2009** for **4 Adults**.

Includes

- * Chauffeur Drive: 7 days Mercedes Luxury Touring Minivan, 7 days Your Professional Touring Driver Guide
- * Transfer: Airport to Hotel in Mercedes Minivan, Hotel to Airport in Mercedes Minivan
- * Cookery School: Full Day at Dunbrody Cookery School
- * Day Touring: Dingle Peninsula & Slea Head Tour, Dublin City Centre at Your Leisure, Dublin City Centre Orientation Tour, East Cork, Cobh and Middleton Tour, Kenmare Town, Waterfalls & Bay Tour, Kilkenny Castle & Medieval City Tour, Kinsale Town, Charles Fort and Old Head, Muckross House, Gardens & Torc Waterfall, Newgrange, Knowth and Boyne Valley Tour, Quintessential Ring of Kerry Coastline, West Clare, Caves & Burren Region Tour, West Cork Coastline Towns and Villages, Wicklow Mountains and Gardens Tour
- * Evening Entertainment: Bunratty Castle Medieval Banquet, Gourmet Dining Evening in Kinsale
- * Recommended Dining: Les Gourmandises Cork City, Lime Tree Restaurant in Kenmare, Mint Restaurant Dublin
- * Tour: The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience
- * 2 x nights at **Merrion Hotel Dublin** occupying 2 **Double Deluxe Main House Room/s** on a Bed & Breakfast basis
- * 2 x nights at **Dunbrody House Hotel and Spa** occupying 2 **Superior Double Room/s with Garden View** on a Bed & Breakfast basis
- * 1 x night at **Old Bank Guesthouse Kinsale** occupying 2 **Superior Double Room/s** on a Bed & Breakfast basis
- * 2 x nights at **Park Hotel Kenmare** occupying 2 **Deluxe Double Room/s** on a Bed & Breakfast basis
- * 1 x night at **Dromoland Castle Hotel** occupying 2 **Deluxe Castle Double Room/s** on a Bed & Breakfast basis

Itinerary

Friday, 01 May 2009

Transfer: Airport to Hotel in Mercedes Minivan for 4 person(s) collected from Dublin Airport at 10:00 - dropped off at Merrion Hotel at 11:00.



Day Touring - Dublin City Centre Orientation Tour for 4 person(s) at 10:00.

Our driver guide will give you a Panoramic Tour of Dublin City's highlights based on your expressed interests. He will point out the major attractions and places of historical importance from the monuments of the Phoenix Park, Custom House, Millennium Spire and Trinity College in the City Centre. Once you are familiar with the city our driver will take you to your hotel to relax after your flight.



Day Touring - Dublin City Centre at Your Leisure for 4 person(s) at 12:00.

You are at leisure today to enjoy the sights and sounds of Dublin on foot or by local city touring services. We recommend visiting St Patrick's Cathedral, Christchurch and Trinity College today which are all located in the city centre within easy reach of your hotel. There is also excellent shopping on Grafton Street and nearby Nassau Street as well as the long Boulevard of O'Connell Street. In the evening you may like to check out some of the magnificent dining and theatre options in the city which we will be happy to recommend or reserve for you.

Overnight at Merrion Hotel Dublin

2 Double Deluxe Main House Room/s on Bed & Breakfast basis

The **5* Merrion Hotel** is our preferred hotel in Dublin City Centre for many reasons. It combines the convenience of location, a wonderful choice of restaurants and the finest private art collection Dublin. The hotel has a quiet and refined sophistication with large drawing rooms, an enclosed garden and The Tethra Spa as public areas. On the doorstep are some of Ireland's finest restaurants and music pubs on the lively and fashionable Baggot Street. The Merrion has some excellent dining options most notably Patrick Guilbaud's considered by many to be the best restaurant in Ireland over the last two decades. The Cellar Bar and restaurant are also excellent dining options.



Saturday, 02 May 2009

Pick up 4 person(s) in 1 x Mercedes Luxury Touring Minivan at 10:00 from Merrion Hotel.

Mercedes Viano is a superb, all-round, multi-purpose chauffeur vehicle. It is extra long wheel base for comfort and touring requirements. The seats are individual and leather and there is ample room for extra luggage. Perfect for a small group on a tour of Ireland.

Pick up 4 person(s) in 1 x Your Professional Touring Driver Guide at 10:00.

All of our driver guides are experts on the areas you will be visiting on your tour of Ireland. We bring experienced driving skills, expert touring routes as well as knowledge and insight into the places you will be visiting and staying on your tour. We will also recommend places to shop, have a drink, and dine in the various towns and villages and cities of Ireland. Your driver guide will also arrange all kinds of activities, events and generally show you Ireland in such depth and quality as is only possible using a local expert.



Day Touring - Newgrange, Knowth and Boyne Valley Tour for 4 person(s) at 10:00.

Newgrange is quite simply one of the great wonders of western ancient civilization that need to be seen close up to be fully appreciated. Dating from before the Pyramids it is a complex chamber that is perfectly aligned to catch the morning sun on the winter solstice. There are two other major tombs at Knowth and Dowth, both equally impressive and different in character. Nearby is the River Boyne where the famous Battle of the Boyne took place. The land here is lush and full of ancient and medieval ruins that are testaments to Ireland's great heritage.



Recommended Dining - Mint Restaurant Dublin for 4 person(s) at 19:00.

Mint in Ranelagh is regarded as the finest example of avant-garde European cuisine in Ireland. Chef Dylan McGrath is the enfant terrible of the Irish restaurant industry and his creations are sublime and unique. Signature dishes include scallops and belly of pork. For Reservations please call +353 1 4978655



Overnight at Merrion Hotel Dublin

2 Double Deluxe Main House Room/s on Bed & Breakfast basis

There are many excellent gourmet dining options in the city centre of Dublin. Over a short few days the problem would be to select the best option. Among the most noteworthy are One Pico, Chapter One, L'Ecivian, Shanahans on the Green, Thornton's. For a less formal dining experience try Temple Bar or Dame Street for Bistros and Brasseries that serve the best of cosmopolitan Dublin. We will be happy to recommend and make your dinner reservations based on your preferences for dining style and location you wish to dine in.

Sunday, 03 May 2009

Day Touring - Wicklow Mountains and Gardens Tour for 4 person(s) at 10:00.

Wicklow is rightly known as the Garden of Ireland due to the spectacular natural scenery which couple mountains with lakes and meandering glens and a long coastline. The Sally Gap, high mountain drive is akin to being in the Wild West and the lush landscapes of Glendalough, the Glen of the two lakes nestled deep in the Wicklow Mountains. There are also the delightful villages of Roundwood and Avoca where picturesque

mountains meet pretty hamlets. Powerscourt House and Gardens is a spectacular gem shadowed by the Sugarloaf Mountain and the estate is home to the largest Waterfall in The British Isles of the same name.

Day Touring - Kilkenny Castle & Medieval City Tour for 4 person(s) at 14:00.

Kilkenny is Ireland foremost medieval city with a beautiful castle, cathedral, narrow cobbled streets and its own brewery. It is famed for its wild cats and its comedy festival. It is a wonderful walking city with the river running through the centre of its streets and a beautiful park located north of the Castle. Near Kilkenny are the beautiful villages of Graignamanagh and Inistoige where the movie "Circle of Friends" was filmed. Kilkenny County is also great for artisans with leather, pottery and contemporary designers populating the countryside.



Overnight at Dunbrody House Hotel and Spa

2 Superior Double Room/s with Garden View on Bed & Breakfast basis

Dunbrody House Hotel is a small luxury hotel located in Wexford on the south coast of Ireland not far from Waterford. The hotel is set in 200 acres of beautiful gardens and parkland and offers its guest luxury accommodation, fine dining, a world-renowned cookery school and a very chic and intimate spa.



Monday, 04 May 2009

Cookery School - Full Day at Dunbrody Cookery School for 4 person(s) at 09:00.

Dunbrody Cookery School has been designed to cater for all levels of cooks, from budding enthusiasts to the experienced. Under the care and guidance of our Cookery School Chef guests will learn the secrets of producing fine food using only the best of quality Irish ingredients. The emphasis at Dunbrody Cookery School is on freshness of ingredients and utilizing these to achieve fabulous dishes without the worry of overly-complicated recipes



Overnight at Dunbrody House Hotel and Spa

2 Superior Double Room/s with Garden View on Bed & Breakfast basis

Tuesday, 05 May 2009

Day Touring - East Cork, Cobh and Middleton Tour for 4 person(s) at 10:00.

East Cork is an often unexplored and region but has a lot of treasures waiting to be uncovered. Among these is

visiting the Heritage town of Cobh, last port of call of the doomed Titanic with a Heritage Centre and St Coleman's Cathedral dominating the skyline. There is also the Middleton Distillery where Jameson is produced and a tour of the distillery with complimentary tasting is a must. The region also has some fine coastal villages from Ballycotton to Youghal.

Day Touring - Kinsale Town, Charles Fort and Old Head for 4 person(s) at 14:00.

Kinsale Town has the enviable position in one of the most beautiful regions of Ireland protected on all sides by a meandering harbour. Charles Fort on the hillside outside the town was designed just for the purpose of protecting this colourful trading town. Around the town there are many beautiful beaches as well as the wonderful Old Head Golf Links which is at the tip of the peninsula.



Evening Entertainment - Gourmet Dining Evening in Kinsale for 4 person(s) at 19:00.

Kinsale has a long and well deserved reputation as one of Irelands original gourmet hotspots. This is due primarily to the excellent location on a sheltered harbour with abundant seafood, a french influence and the eclectic range of dining options on its colourful cobbled streets. Among our favourites (these change regularly) are Fishy Fishy Cafe, Man Fridays, Jim Edwards (all for seafood) and for a more varied menu of South Cork Cuisine try The Blue Haven, Crackpots or the Bullmann. There are a range of entertainment options in the town and many of the pubs have live music around summer time. Of note is the Seannachai(The Storyteller) or the White House and we also like the Greyhound Bar.

Recommended Dining - Les Gourmandises Cork City for 4 person(s) at 19:00.

Les Gourmandises Restaurant is located in the heart of the Cork City. It offers fine and sophisticated culinary experience with excellent wines and a beautifully presented menu. The menu is based on the French cuisine, using fresh produce from the local world famous English market and nearby coastline. For Reservations please call +353 21 4251959



Overnight at Old Bank Guesthouse Kinsale

2 Superior Double Room/s on Bed & Breakfast basis

The **Old Bank** is a beautifully appointed four-star guesthouse in the centre of gourmet Kinsale. Each room is decorated with the finest linens and the views over Kinsale Harbor are exquisite. There is no formal dining room but who needs one with some of Ireland top restaurants on your doorstep.



Wednesday, 06 May 2009

Day Touring - West Cork Coastline Towns and Villages for 4 person(s) at 10:00.

The eternal West Cork coastline is among the most indented, varied and lush in Ireland. Among the highlights of this tour is the ancient Drombeg Stone Circle, the quaint fishing villages of Glandore and Union Hall as well as a possible detour to Ireland's most southerly peninsula, Mizen Head. There are also the pretty seaside towns of Baltimore with its islands and Schull with lots of nice shops and cafes to browse through. Glengariff is located at the foot of the Caha Mountains that separate Cork from Kerry. It is a dense lush sub tropical valley that is famous for its Bamboo Park, seal colony and Italian Gardens visited by boat from The Blue Pool in Glengariff. Bantry Town is Ireland's deepest port and has a beautiful town square which hosts markets daily in summer time. There are also lovely walks in the forest and for the more adventurous there are mountain lakes that can be hiked to. Inland from here is the solitary chapel on an island by the lake at Gougane Barra, one of Ireland's most romantic locations.

Day Touring - Kenmare Town, Waterfalls & Bay Tour for 4 person(s) at 16:00.

Kenmare is renowned as one of Ireland's prettiest towns nestled between the imposing Ring of Kerry and the Ring of Beara on the Kenmare River. The town has numerous shops that specialize in all kinds of fine antiques, laces & linen, gourmet and fine arts. Close to the town is Kenmare Stone Circle, an unusual egg shaped circle and one of the oldest and largest in the South West. In summer boats trips from the pier that tour the magnificent Bay of Kenmare can be arranged. On the outskirts of the town are the pretty waterfalls on the Sheen River, where the Sheen Falls Hotel is located.

Overnight at Park Hotel Kenmare

2 Deluxe Double Room/s on Bed & Breakfast basis

The Park Hotel in Kenmare is one of Ireland's finest five star hotels with a reputation for excellent Service and hospitality. The Samas Spa is one of the ultimate pampering destinations in Ireland. The hotel is set on mature grounds and is walking distance to the great pubs and restaurants of Kenmare. Dining at the hotel is highly recommended as is enjoying a drink at the Bar with its wonderful terrace in summer months.



Thursday, 07 May 2009

Day Touring - Muckross House, Gardens & Torc Waterfall for 4 person(s) at 10:00.

Muckross House and Gardens formerly the home of The Lord Kenmare is the finest Victorian Mansion in Ireland. Its position overlooking the Lakes of Killarney becomes impossibly romantic when the Rhododendrons are in full bloom. The estate can be walked on foot or admired from the many jaunting cars which are about. Close to the estate is the Torc Waterfall located in an enchanted wooded area which makes a small hike into the National Park very rewarding.

Day Touring - Quintessential Ring of Kerry Coastline for 4 person(s) at 14:00.

The Ring of Kerry Tour is Ireland's quintessential driving tour encompassing lakes, islands, rugged coastline, ancient history and a collection of villages, monuments and vistas that are both picturesque and timeless. The highlights of the tour include the villages of Waterville, Caherdaniel and Sneem which are all small romantic outposts. On a historical level the ancient Staigue Fort and more recent Derrynane House are well worth visiting. The tour can be accomplished clockwise or counter clockwise depending on the starting point and the time of year.

Recommended Dining - Lime Tree Restaurant in Kenmare for 4 person(s) at 19:00.

The Lime Tree is a wonderful gourmet gem in the centre of Kenmare set in a beautiful cut stone old schoolhouse. The restaurant is split over two floors and shares space with wonderful eclectic ranges of art. The menu is contemporary and uses excellent local products such as the Sneem black pudding as well as locally farmed smoked salmon, freshly caught shrimp and crab. Desserts are excellent too. For reservations call +353 64 41225.

Overnight at Park Hotel Kenmare

2 Deluxe Double Room/s on Bed & Breakfast basis

The town of Kenmare is blessed with many of the finest dining options available in Ireland. Known as a gourmet town par excellence the major dining takes place on the triangle of Henry, Main and Shelbourne Streets. The major restaurants to consider are The Lime Tree, Mulcahys and Packies. For less formal dining we also recommend The Horseshoe Bar and The Purple Heather.

Friday, 08 May 2009

Day Touring - Dingle Peninsula & Sleat Head Tour for 4 person(s) at 10:00.

Dingle Peninsula Tour incorporating the Blasket Islands. The Dingle Peninsula is perhaps the most naturally beautiful tour in Ireland. This is due to a staggering combination of wild ocean scenery, ancient relics and a profusion of every sort of colour blossoming in the hedgerows. The Blasket Islands are definitely worth a visit as is the Heritage Centre that explains their story. Also there are wonderful Beehive Huts and a beautiful small church of perfect dimensions at Gallarus.

Day Touring - West Clare, Caves & Burren Region Tour for 4 person(s) at 14:00.

West Clare is among Irelands most rugged and dramatic landscapes with shifting and sculpting stone creating unforgettable scenery such as the Cliffs of Moher, Burren Plateau and Islands. We recommend a visit to the spectacular Aillwee Caves in Ballyvaughan at the heart of The Burren. The ancient Dolmen at Poulabrune is a relic to the intelligence of the first settlers in this remote lunar like landscape. The villages of Ballyvaughan and Kinvarra are quaint and two of the most pleasant and photogenic in Ireland. Seafood is a specialty of this region and there are many fine pubs serving fresh portions of mussels and oysters, notably Monks in Ballyvaughan, Cornerstone in Lahinch and Moran's in Clarinbridge.



Tour - The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience for 4 person(s) at 16:00.

The Cliffs of Moher in Co Clare are simply one of Irelands most beautiful and must see natural attractions. They stretch for 8km & rise up to 214 meters above the Atlantic Ocean where gulls and sea life play below an awe inspiring panorama. The tour includes parking at the cliffs and entrance to the cliffs as well as use of the world class facilities at the visitor centre. There is an optional extra (not included in tour cost) to take the Atlantic Edge exhibition which illustrates this unique and fragile environment.



Drop off 4 person(s) in 1 x Mercedes Luxury Touring Minivan at 18:00 at Bunratty Village.

Drop off 4 person(s) in 1 x Your Professional Touring Driver Guide at 18:00.

Evening Entertainment - Bunratty Castle Medieval Banquet for 4 person(s) at 19:30.

Bunratty Banquet takes place each evening in Bunratty Castle at 17.30 and 20.30 and lasts for approximately two hours. It is a joyful event that takes place in old banqueting hall with food and drink provided as well as song and dance by local musicians. The servers are all dressed in traditional costume and the food is served in a traditional banqueting fashion.



Overnight at Dromoland Castle Hotel

2 Deluxe Castle Double Room/s on Bed & Breakfast basis

Dromoland Castle is Irelands premier Castle hotels located on one of the finest country estates in the western world. Built in the 14th century by the Earl of Thomond its illustrious history includes great Kings and Statesmen who still enjoy its refined treasures today. The estate has a range of luxury accommodations and boasts multiple activities from golf, to falconry, archery and horse riding. The restaurants on the estate are famous for using the finest of Irish ingredients with the flair of French classical cooking.



Saturday, 09 May 2009

Transfer: Hotel to Airport in Mercedes Minivan for 4 person(s) collected from Bunratty Village at 10:00 - dropped off at Shannon Airport at 11:00.

Pricing

Average Price Per Person sharing	(Applies to 4)	Total:	€2,695.00
		Itinerary Total:	€10,780.00

Terms and Conditions :

- Price is per person sharing, any alterations in final numbers will affect overall price.
- 20% deposit required on booking. Final payment due six weeks in advance of travel date.
- Price and availability is subject to conditions at time of booking services.
- Once services are booked and confirmed final euro price will remain constant.
- Price in other currencies may vary in accordance with exchange rate fluctuations.
- If transport described in itinerary is not available a similar size and quality transport will be supplied.
- Our cancellation policy reflects that of individual suppliers.
- We are not liable for alterations to travel arrangements due to cancellations or delay in arrangements from external suppliers e.g. flight/ferries.
- Price does not include entrance to attractions listed on the itinerary.

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