

Ireland – Kerry County



Trip Summary

“How can a country so small have so many different, diverse & dramatic landscapes?” This is a question you will find yourself asking about Ireland. From the rolling, soft Wicklow Hills in the East to the dramatic & mountainous coastline of the West, the spectacular Cliffs of Moher, the studded islands off the south coast or the awe-inspiring Wild Atlantic Way drive. Ireland offers you more than the average country in scenery, culture, history, warmth & splendor. To really experience Ireland – you need to feel it – feel its land, its rain, its temperate climate & most of all – its soul. This is a country that cannot be rushed and exploring it on foot is one of the best ways to experience it. This allows you the opportunity to meet the “locals”, come face to face with thousands of years of history and see what it is that makes Irish people so unique.

Itinerary

Day 1: Shannon / Bunratty

Arrive to Shannon Airport where you meet your Guide and your holiday begins • Upon arrival at your first night’s accommodation, enjoy a leisurely lunch if you wish, and catch up on sleep after your travels • Around 5:00 PM, your Guide will have a Briefing Meeting with you to discuss your coming days • After that, transfer to Bunratty Castle to enjoy a wonderful Banquet evening – as they would have been celebrated in 15th century Ireland • This is a wonderful introduction to Irish music, song, dance & food • Return to your accommodation afterwards for your overnight • *Overnight Shannon’s Bunratty Courtyard Bed & Breakfast (L, D)*

Day 2: Bunratty / Killarney / Muckross House

Shuttle to Killarney, the heart of County Kerry, where you have a wonderful opportunity to get your bodies moving as you cycle around the middle lake of the famous “Three Lakes of Killarney” • This beautiful cycle route takes you from the famous Muckross House with its glorious gardens, around Muckross Lake, over the beautiful Brickeen Bridge to Dinis Cottage – an old Hunting Lodge dating back to the 1700’s • After optional light refreshments here, you continue along a track through the famous Oakwood’s to return to our starting point • You have the option of a visit to Muckross traditional farms where the traditional ways of Bygone farming days are brought to life • *Overnight Killarney’s Brehon Hotel (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Killarney / Derrynane National Park / Ring of Kerry

This morning, a one hour drive takes you to the historic Derrynane National Park, once home to the famous “Liberator” Daniel O’Connell • Enjoying a walk around this beautiful coastline with a glorious beach and (tides permitting) walk to Abbey Island is like stepping into a picture postcard as you see some of the most glorious scenery in this part of Ireland • Before moving on you have the opportunity to enjoy some seaweed foraging on this most glorious coastline where your guide will teach you about this wonderful plant and allow you to sample some of the wonderful foods we create using Ireland’s newest delicacy • Today’s trip will take in sections of the famous Ring of Kerry drive, so by the time you return to Killarney, you will have seen an amazing array of sights • *Overnight Killarney’s Brehon Hotel (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Killarney / Killarney National Park

Today we get to see the best of Killarney National Park by horseback • A two-hour trek through the park will leave you in awe of Ireland’s most beautiful landscape filled with views of Ireland’s highest



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mountain and crystal-clear lakes sparkling in the sunlight • Following your trek you have your afternoon and evening at your leisure to explore Killarney town and enjoy one of the many great restaurants for your evening meal • *Overnight Killarney's Brehon Hotel (B, L)*

Day 5: Killarney / The Dingle Peninsula

Your destination today is The Dingle Peninsula – made famous by the filming of Ryan's Daughter • This super location is filled with traditions long gone in many other parts of Ireland • Arriving to the town of Dingle – you will take to the water & enjoy a wonderful kayak trip into Dingle Harbor – with the possibility of seeing “Fungi” the Dingle Dolphin that has delighted so many people over the years with his amazing curiosity & friendliness • After your kayak, we then continue around Sleat Head to the Blasket Islands Visitor Centre • Here you have the opportunity to listen to the Irish language, learn about so many traditions that are typical to this region & get a feeling for life on these islands in days gone by • From here, we then drive back to Dingle for a guided tour of Dingle Distillery • Learn the history of Irish whiskey production from the 6th century monks to present day and of course taste the “Water of Life” or Uisce Beatha as it's called in Gaelic • *Overnight Dingle Skellig Hotel (B, L, D)*

Day 6: The Dingle Peninsula

Today we take on the Wild Atlantic Ocean and try our hand at surfing the famous waves of Inch Strand • We consider this one of the country's most beautiful beaches where the Slieve Mish Mountains rise up above you and the sweeping views of both the Dingle and Iveragh Peninsulas surround you • For those who don't wish to surf, a relaxing stroll on this wonderful beach which stretches for 3 miles across Dingle Bay is the perfect way to spend your time • After an invigorating experience in the water we will enjoy a lunch of locally sourced ingredients while looking out on the fantastic vistas • We return to Dingle for a chance to learn how to cook your favorite Irish dishes in the company of professional chefs and of course sample your creations • *Overnight Dingle Skellig Hotel (B, L, D)*

Day 7: Cloghane / Tralee

The beautiful village of Cloghane is our destination today for a hike which takes you to the end of the land and as far west as it is possible to travel in Ireland • Standing on the Western edge of Europe with the Wild Atlantic crashing against the cliffs gives you the perfect memories to end your holiday • This great hike allows for splendid view of the Seacliff's and Brandon bay as it sweeps away to the North • With some luck you may spot some Dolphins or migrating Whales as they glide by on route to Summer feeding grounds further north • Following lunch in the village you will be transferred to Tralee for your final nights' accommodation and farewell evening meal • *Overnight Tralee Rose Hotel (B, L, D)*

Day 8: Tralee / Shannon

Following your final scrumptious Irish breakfast, you will be transferred to Shannon Airport for your departing flights • *No overnight (B)*

**This trip is operated in partnership with Ireland Walk Hike Bike.*

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures and Ireland Walk Hike Bike.*

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Activities

Hiking: Easy to moderately strenuous hikes ranging from 1 to 5 miles along beaches or grassy tracks (which can get muddy).

Biking: Easy to moderately strenuous cycling routes ranging from 10 to 15 miles along quiet country roads or bike paths. Ireland WHB utilizes a fleet of hybrid, flat bar bicycles designed so you can ride faster on longer rides with stability and comfort.

Horseback Riding: Two-hour beginner horseback ride with professional guides who will provide instruction, safety tips and riding techniques.

Kayaking: Three-hour kayak trip on the calm, flat waters of Dingle Bay. Equipment and instruction provided by your guides.

Surfing: Half day beginner surfing excursion with professional surf instructor. Equipment and instruction provided for surfing lessons at the famous waves of Inch Strand. (There is an optional beach walk for those who don't wish to try surfing).

Discovery: From rural villages and breathtaking landscapes to buzzing urban hubs and warm hospitality, Ireland is a country begging to be explored. Experience the untamed west coast of Ireland while journeying around the Dingle Peninsula or venturing into Kerry's lush vistas. Take in the charming towns, wild landscapes and Victorian mansions on a scenic drive around the Ring of Kerry, a 110-mile touring route that evokes scenes from *Lord of the Rings*. Get to know the most famous local of the Dingle Peninsula, Fungi the Dingle Dolphin, on a relaxing paddle around Dingle Bay. Visit the ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell, a lawyer, politician and statesman whose home displays many relics of O'Connell's fascinating life and career. Horseback ride among the native oak and yew woods of Killarney National Park while on the lookout for the park's native red deer. Dine like kings at Bunratty Castle's medieval banquet dinner. Come discover the exciting country of Ireland with the leaders in adventure travel!

Ireland Walk Hike Bike guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. Meals are included as indicated in the daily itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Distinctive Accommodations

Night 1: Bunratty Courtyard Bed & Breakfast – Shannon

Located only 15 minutes away from the Shannon Airport in the heart of the balmy and mystical village of Bunratty, the Courtyard is an ideal base for visiting Bunratty's variety of old world pubs, craft shops, restaurants and eighteenth century castle and folk park. Tastefully decorated with only twelve rooms, the hosts will welcome you with the Irish hospitality the country is known for.

Nights 2 – 4: Brehon Hotel – Killarney

The Brehon, Killarney is a luxurious hotel of unique grace and elegance set amidst Killarney's breathtaking landscape, overlooking Killarney National Park. The Brehon & Angsana Spa luxurious accommodation in Killarney is designed with your every requirement in mind. The soaring expanse of Killarney's dramatic skyline is reflected in each of the spacious rooms at the hotel. Their simple, yet luxurious décor works to highlight the breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape while subtle, thoughtful features ensure a restful stay.

Nights 5 & 6: Dingle Skellig Hotel – Dingle

Upon your arrival at the Dingle Skellig Hotel, the friendly staff will welcome you and make you feel right at home. The hotel features stunning views over Dingle Harbor and Dingle Bay and is a place of retreat where mind and body can soak up the ambiance of the surrounding natural areas. The stylish and elegant rooms will leave you fully rested for your adventurous days ahead.

Night 7: The Rose Hotel – Tralee

Situated a short walk from Tralee town center, The Rose Hotel offers beautifully decorated guest rooms with all of the amenities of a four-star hotel. You'll find an upscale restaurant, informal bar, fitness center, steam room, sauna and spa.

Our Partner – Ireland Walk Hike Bike

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Ireland Walk Hike Bike. Ireland Walk Hike Bike (formerly Southwest Walks Ireland) was started in 1994 by Linda Woods. The company came about as a realization of a dream – Linda wanted to show people “the real Ireland” the way it should be seen – slowly, intimately and knowledgeably. Twenty years later, IrelandWHB's terrific office personnel and outstanding guides all share the same philosophy – “to take people into those hidden parts of Ireland that few know about and give people a real “taste and flavor” of Ireland the way we know it”. With the many changes & challenges that everyone all over the world have to face daily, everyone at Ireland Walk Hike Bike remain committed to share their love and fascination for Ireland – its history, culture, diversity & humor.

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Arrivals and Departures

Day 1 Arrival / Pickup

You will be met at the Shannon Airport on Day 1 in accordance with your flight arrival time. Your guide will have an Austin Adventures signboard and will be waiting for you in the lobby arrivals area. It is a small airport so your guide will be easy to find. For guests arriving into Shannon for a pre-night stay, your guide will collect you from the reception area in the Bunratty Courtyard Bed & Breakfast at 5:00 pm for a briefing meeting and first night's medieval banquet celebration at the Bunratty Castle.

Day 8 Departure / Return Flight

After breakfast, your guides will transfer you two hours from Tralee to the Shannon Airport where you will arrive at least three hours prior to your departure time. Please make flights out of Shannon for 1:00 PM or later.

Trip Price

\$4,998 (\$680 Single Supplement)

Trip Length

8 days / 7 nights

2020 Dates

May 17 – 24

September 6 – 13

Host City

Shannon, Ireland

Airport Code: SNN

Reservations & Availability

1.800.575.1540

*Cobalt lakes, cliff-studded coastlines,
rolling hills and ancient castles*



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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$750 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days.

Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800.575.1540

Phone: 406.655.4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- All meals as listed in daily detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Bikes, helmets and other necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Meals as not designated in daily itinerary.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you.

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.