

*** Spring Tour of Ireland / May 8 – 18, 2023 ***
Visiting Kinsale, Dingle and Ennis – Ireland’s Three Gems
The Irish Cultural Center’s Rose Baker & Ashlie Baker to Host the Trip.
Please Join Us!



Tour the wild and beautiful West and South Coast of Ireland! Embrace Ireland’s gems, Kinsale, Dingle and Ennis, on a leisurely paced spring tour through gorgeous countryside and charming towns. Multiple night stays in Kinsale, Dingle and Ennis allow you to immerse yourself in the beauty, hospitality and culture of Ireland’s historic towns.

Total Cost: \$3,500 per person / double room occupancy; \$4,250 single room occupancy (limited availability)

What You Need To Do! Deposits, Payments and Application:

- **Initial Deposit:** \$2,000 to reserve your seat on the trip (see forms of payment on page 3).
Tour is limited (44 passengers) and will be filled on a **first come, first serve basis**.
- **Application:** Your Initial Deposit must accompany a **completed reservation application** and **copy of your passport**.
- **Final Payment Due: January 30, 2023. Balance due: \$1,500 per person / double room occupancy; \$2,250 single room.**
- **Travel Insurance:** Information available upon request.

The Irish Cultural Center Tour Includes:

- Round trip bus transportation from the Irish Cultural Center to Boston’s Logan Airport, including driver’s tip
- Round trip airfare from Boston to Shannon, Ireland via Aer Lingus
- Nine (9) Nights Top Rated Hotel Accommodations
 - Actons Hotel (Kinsale): www.actonshotelkinsale.com
 - Dingle Skellig Hotel (Dingle): www.dingleskellig.com
 - Old Ground Hotel (Ennis): www.oldgroundhotelennis.com
- Full Breakfast and Dinner Meals included
 - Full Irish breakfast daily
 - Eight (8) dinners, including Irish evenings at Kate Kearney’s Cottage (Killarney, Co. Kerry) and Medieval Banquet at Bunratty Castle (Bunratty, Co. Clare)
- Admission to: Blarney Castle and Gardens, Blasket Centre, Cashel Murphy Celtic Forts, Charles Fort, Jameson Distillery, Walking Tour of Kinsale, Horse-drawn Jaunting Cart Ride in Killarney, and Cliffs of Moher
- Optional day trips (at no extra cost): Midleton, Sleah Head Drive tour of Dingle Peninsula, Kilmalkedar Church, Doolin, and Killarney
- Deluxe touring motor coach for all transportation and sightseeing with the services of a professional Irish driver/guide throughout
- Porterage of one (1) suitcase per person
- Tips & taxes while in Ireland (Note: Gratuity to the driver/guide in Ireland is included in tour cost)

The ICC reserves the right to make changes to the itinerary as needed, due to weather or other circumstances.

Trip Details and Itinerary

- Day 1:
Monday,
May 8, 2023
- Depart by bus from ICC in West Springfield at 1:00 pm to Boston's Logan Airport. Leave Logan at 6:55 pm aboard Aer Lingus Flight EI 134.
- Day 2:
Tuesday,
May 9, 2023
- Arrive at Shannon Airport at 6:00 am local Irish time. Board coach for land transportation. Stop at the South County Pub in Douglas, Co. Cork for a tour-sponsored Irish breakfast. Afterwards, we will make our way to Actons Hotel. Unpack and relax or freshen up before a welcome get-together drink at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:30 pm in the Actons Hotel restaurant.
- Day 3:
Wednesday,
May 10, 2023
- After Actons Hotel breakfast, depart at 9:55 am for Charles Fort. Charles Fort is a classic example of a late 17th century star-shaped fort. As one of the largest military installations in the country, Charles Fort has been associated with some well-known events in Irish history. The most significant of these are the Williamite War of 1689-91 and the Civil War of 1922-23. From Charles Fort, you will also enjoy spectacular panoramic views of Kinsale harbor and the West Cork coast. After our visit to Charles Fort, we will stop at the Kinsale Garden of Remembrance established by a Kinsale woman (Kathleen Murphy) who worked as a nurse for over 30 years in New York City. After 9/11, Ms. Murphy provided a memorial on her land at Ringfinnan, Kinsale with a tree dedicated to the loving memory of each of the 343 firefighters who died heroically in the line of duty at the Twin Towers on 9/11, as well as one for their chaplain Father Mychal Judge. We will return to town to meet a local guide for a 90 minute walking tour around Kinsale's historic streets. Afterwards, the remainder of the day is free. There is a great selection of small shops, and if you are hungry a wide choice of lunch options. Kinsale is well-known as the gourmet capital of Ireland, so you have an opportunity for lunch to taste many local dishes along with a vast array of seafood plates. Dinner at Actons Hotel at 6:30 pm.
- Day 4:
Thursday,
May 11, 2023
- After Actons Hotel breakfast, bus leaves for an optional day trip to Midleton for a tour of the Jameson Experience, a journey through the story and making of Irish whiskey complete with a sample at the end. Afterwards, we return to Kinsale and the remainder of the day is free. Dinner at Actons Hotel at 6:30 pm.
- Day 5:
Friday
May 12, 2023
- After Actons Hotel breakfast, depart Kinsale for Dingle at 10:00 am. We will make a stop at Blarney Castle. At Blarney, climb to the battlements of Blarney Castle to kiss the famous "Stone of Eloquence" or wander through the lovely gardens. Also, visit the Blarney Woolen Mills where you can find quality Irish-made goods of all types. You will also have time to browse around the village, charmingly set around a large village green. Lunch is on your own in Blarney. After our visit to Blarney, we will make our way to the Dingle Skellig Hotel in Dingle, Co. Kerry. Dinner at the Dingle Skellig Hotel at 6:30 pm.
- Day 6:
Saturday,
May 13, 2023
- After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, depart at 9:30 am for an optional tour around the scenic Dingle Peninsula. We will drive past little harbors and wide stretches of sandy beaches, leading southward to Sleah Head. This is the most westerly point in Europe, "Next Parish America" and off this coast many an Armada was lost. The awe-inspiring beauty of this particular area is unmatched. We will make a stop (weather permitting) to visit an ancient Celtic settlement dating back to 500 B.C. along the Sleah Head drive. We will also enjoy a visit to the Blasket Centre where you will learn about life on the Blasket Islands, inhabited until 1953, and about the families who immigrated directly to Springfield, MA. We will also visit Kilmalkedar Church, a spectacular early-Christian and medieval ecclesiastical site. On our return to Dingle, we will stop at Dingle Goldsmiths. Jerry and Aideen Baker have fifty years combined experience making handcrafted jewelry and are masters of the trade. Treat yourself or that special someone to a piece of jewelry made on the Peninsula. Dinner at Dingle Skellig Hotel at 6:30 pm.
- Day 7:
Sunday
May 14, 2023
FREE DAY!
- After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, the day is free to relax or explore Dingle and the surrounding area. Tour hosts will provide suggestions to make sure you experience the best of Dingle. Stroll around town and enjoy one or more of Dingle's numerous pubs. Your choices are many as you savor your time in this colorful and charming harbor town. **Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own. *Catholic Mass is held at St. Mary's Church on Green Street at 11:30 am.**

- Day 8:
Monday,
May 15, 2023
- After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, bus leaves at 10:30 am for a visit to Brian De Staic's workshop and store. Brian De Staic has been designing and handcrafting jewelry for 40 years, with one of the largest workshops in Ireland. Treat yourself or that special someone to a piece of jewelry made on the Peninsula. Afterwards, we will head to Killarney (via Inch Strand and the small town of Milltown) to enjoy a traditional horse-drawn jaunting cart ride through Killarney National Park. The Killarney National Park is internationally renowned both for its scenic beauty and scientific interest. Stop at the mighty Ross Castle to admire the unspoiled scenery all around. Afterwards, you are on your own to stroll through the streets of this quaint town to enjoy lunch or shopping or its great pubs. In the evening, we will drive to Kate Kearney's Cottage at 6:15 pm for dinner and music/dance entertainment. Following the show, we will return to the Dingle Skellig Hotel.
- Day 9:
Tuesday,
May 16, 2023
- After Dingle Skellig Hotel breakfast, depart Dingle at 10:30 am for Ennis, Co. Clare. Before making our way to Ennis, we will make a stop in the beautiful village of Adare. Afterwards, we will make our way to the Old Ground Hotel in Ennis. Dinner at the Old Ground Hotel at 6:00 pm.
- Day 10:
Wednesday,
May 17, 2023
- After Old Ground Hotel breakfast, the bus will depart for the amazing Cliffs of Moher (weather permitting), which rise some 700 feet above the unforgiving Atlantic coastline. Afterwards, we will visit the village of Doolin and then return to Ennis where you will have time to explore this lovely town. At 7:40 pm, we will depart for a medieval-style banquet with traditional songs and stories at Bunratty Castle at 8:30 pm.
- Day 11:
Thursday,
May 18, 2023
- After Old Ground Hotel breakfast, depart at 9:30 am for Shannon Airport. Enjoy last minute shopping at Shannon's Duty Free Shop. Our Aer Lingus Flight EI 135 departs at 1:30 pm, arriving in Boston's Logan Airport at 3:25 pm local time. We will arrive by coach back at the ICC in West Springfield around 7:00 pm.

Forms of Payment

- Check made payable to the Irish Cultural Center or Cash.
Mail payment, Reservation Application and copy of passport to the Irish Cultural Center, 429 Morgan Road, West Springfield, MA 01089.
- Credit Card: visit the Spring Tour page on our website at www.IrishCenterwne.org to pay online with a credit card through PayPal. A charge of 2.89% and \$0.49 per transaction fee will be added to credit card payments. Mail Reservation Application and copy of passport to the Irish Cultural Center, 429 Morgan Road, West Springfield, MA 01089.
- Patrons in good standing of the Irish Cultural Center are entitled to a refund of €20 to be provided by the tour hosts upon arrival in Ireland.

For more information or reservations:

Visit the ICC website at www.irishcenterwne.org or contact:

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