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Tel: 905-662-0709 Email: valerie@bftravel.ca Explore the Emerald Isle on this comprehensive 13-day tour, including both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Starting in the south, guests will explore some of the country's beautiful and unspoilt countryside; from scenic County Kerry to the lunar-like Burren region and the wilds of Connemara. After spending time in the arty city of Galway, the tour continues into Northern Ireland, where guests can see the incredible natural wonder that is the Giant's Causeway. The tour ends with a visit to Belfast and the Titanic Experience, followed by 2 nights in one of the liveliest cities in Europe, Dublin.

TOUR LODGING INFO: 11 Nights' Accommodation Accommodation will be provided on a twin-sharing basis in hotel listed below or similar

CITIES	NIGHTS	SUPERIOR HOTELS
Dublin	01 Night	Riu Plaza Gresham Hotel/ Academy Plaza Hotel
Kerry	02 Nights	Randles Court Hotel/ Dromhall Hotel
Limerick	01 Night	George Hotel / Treacy's West County
Galway	02 Nights	Clayton Hotel
Letterkenny/ Donegal	01 Night	Clanree Hotel
Belfast	02 Nights	Clayton Hotel
Dublin	02 Nights	Riu Plaza Gresham Hotel/ Academy Plaza Hotel

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Marvel at the spectacular scenery, mountains, and lakes of the Ring of Kerry
- Explore the lunar-like Burren region and see the majestic Cliffs of Moher
- Visit the artsy city of Galway and spend time in beautiful Connemara National Park
- See the incredible Giant's Causeway, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Discover the bustling city of Belfast and learn about the Titanic
- Tour the Republic of Ireland's exuberant capital city, Dublin

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- International flight from Toronto
- 11 Nights' accommodation on a twin sharing basis at listed hotels or similar
- 11 Irish breakfast
- 03 dinners at hotels
- Transportation in a modern motorcoach with a driver/quide
- Sightseeing & Entrance fees as per the itinerary (Blarney Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Titanic Belfast, Kylemore Abbey, Giant's Causeway, Slane Distillery & EPIC the Irish Emigration Museum)
- Ferry ride across the River Shannon
- Ferry ride from Portaferry to Strangford Lough
- Lough Corrib cruise with scones and an Irish coffee
- Services of guides during sightseeing tours in Derry, Belfast & Dublin
- Porterage for 1 piece of luggage per person in/out of hotels
- All Air taxes and fuel Surcharges
- All local applicable taxes



TOUR ITINERARY:

DAY 01, MON: CANADA

Make your own way to your selected gateway Airport for your international flight to Dublin. Enjoy inflight meals and services.

DAY 02, TUE: DUBLIN ARRIVAL (-/-/D)

On arrival at Dublin International Airport make your own way to your hotel for check in. Your hotel will be within walking distance of the city centre.

Dinner and an overnight in Dublin

DAY 03, WED: DUBLIN – BLARNEY CASTLE – KILLARNEY (B/-/-)

This morning you will meet your English-speaking driver/guide and depart Ireland's capital headed to County Kerry. En-route stop in the town of Blarney, home to the famous Blarney Castle. Dating from 1446, the castle is a tower house built on solid limestone within wonderful grounds. At the top of the Tower you will find the legendary Stone of Eloquence; kiss it and you will never again be lost for words. Enjoy some free time for shopping at Blarney Woollen Mills. The presence of the Woollen Mills during the famine shielded Blarney from the worst effects of the famine, due to its employment of local workers. In 1976 Chris Kelleher, himself a mill worker, bought the old mill property. Within a short period of time Chris & his family transformed the mill into what is perhaps the largest quality craft shop in Ireland. Continue to Killarney in County Kerry in the southwest of Ireland.

DAY 04, THU: RING OF KERRY (B/-/-)

Today you will enjoy a tour of the Iveragh Peninsula, which will give you the opportunity to explore the Ring of Kerry. Taking in spectacular scenery such as mountains, peat, bogs, lakes, and magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean. Leaving Killarney, you will pass through Killorglin, famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh (where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula and Dingle Bay), the sea town of Waterville and Sneem Village, famous for its brightly coloured houses. Along the Ring of Kerry stop at a local farm for a sheepdog demonstration. Your visit starts with an overview of the different breeds of sheep, followed by an introduction to the farmer's most important

tool, his border collies. Next you will see a superb demonstration of sheep herding as the farmer with his dogs demonstrate how, by working together, he can take a flock of sheep from the mountain top to the sheep pen close to the farmyard.

Overnight in Killarney

Optional: Jaunting Car ride in Killarney National Park (min 2 pax) CAD 21 per person

Enjoy transportation of a different kind! A pony and trap (also known as a Jaunting Car) help you discover areas of Killarney National Park that you might not otherwise visit. Relax aboard a jaunting car as your Jarvey [driver] takes you through the magnificent scenery of the National Park.

DAY 05, FRI: KILLARNEY – CLIFFS OF MOHER – LIMERICK (B/-/-)

Travel northwards to Tarbert and take a short boat ride across the mouth of the River Shannon to land on Clare's shore at Killimer. From here, travel along the coast to the Cliffs of Moher, the most majestic cliffs in Ireland which rise from the Atlantic Ocean and extend for over 7km. On a clear day, you can admire the Aran Islands & Connemara Mountains. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O'Brien's Tower, built by the descendants of Brian Boru to entertain his lady friends. The Atlantic Edge is the exciting new interpretive centre built into the natural landscape in the cliffs. Enjoy a tour of the Burren Region, The Burren is a strange & unique region in Europe; it is a high plateau of porous limestone situated in Northern Clare. The limestone is bare with no trees growing here or land covering the stone. But the Burren is not as deserted as we believe: the cracks allow different types of flowers to grow all year round. The rocks hide many caves like Ailwee as well as "Turloughs", an interesting phenomenon which transforms lakes into fields during the summer. Continue on to Limerick. Overnight in Limerick

Optional: Medieval Banquet at Bunratty Castle CAD 99 per person

Bunratty Castle, built in the 15th century by the Earl of Thomond, stands on the banks of the Raite River in County Clare. The Earl was known for his generosity and his lavish banquets. The Earl was known for his generosity and his lavish entertainment and banquets. The entertainment today is provided by the superb Bunratty Singers & is a compliment to the lively mead reception, a four-course meal & of course good wine. Guests are invited to enjoy an unforgettable evening & take a true step back in time to Medieval Ireland.

DAY 06, SAT: LIMERICK – GALWAY (B/-/D)

This morning you will travel to Galway, a beautiful place that has attracted many musicians and artists over the years. Galway is a delight with its narrow streets, wooden shop fronts and busy pubs. Your visit starts at Galway's modern Cathedral, one of the largest and most impressive buildings in Galway built between 1958 & 1965. Afterwards

enjoy a cruise on Lough Corrib with scones and an Irish coffee - this journey on the Corrib Princess takes passengers along the majestic River Corrib and on to the lake, providing visitors with wonderful views of historic monuments and scenery, which make this one of the most spectacular waterways in Ireland. Enjoy the rest of your afternoon at leisure.

Dinner and an overnight in Galway

DAY 07, SUN: GALWAY - CONNEMARA - GALWAY (B/-/-)

Today you will travel through the beautiful Connemara Region, a land of lakes, rivers, bogs, and mountains; a land of villages where Gaelic is still the spoken language. The Connemara is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the south. On its northern shore the land is harsher, with spectacular views of the ocean, the fjord of Killary Harbour, as well as the steep mountains overlooking numerous lakes and large bog areas, a haven for nature lovers. You will visit historic Kylemore Abbey built in 1868 by Mitchell Henry and see its most famous feature the miniature Cathedral. It has been home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns since 1920. Next you will visit a bodhrán maker (traditional Irish drum). Roundstone Music and Crafts is located in a former Franciscan monastery in Roundstone, in the heart of Connemara. It is here that you will find the workshop of Malachy Kearns, better known as Malachy Bodhrán, who is famous for the manufacture of bodhráns, the oldest instruments that accompany traditional Irish music. Malachy makes bodhráns for the world famous Riverdance troupe and he is currently the only full-time bodhrán maker in Ireland. Overnight in Galway

DAY 08, MON: GALWAY – SLIGO – LONDONDERRY – DONEGAL (B/-/D)

Today travel to Donegal via County Sligo; see the beautiful scenery that was an inspiration for W.B. Yeats, who is buried at Drumcliffe Churchyard under loaf shaped Benbulben Mountain. Continue to Sligo, Northern Ireland via Belleek to visit the Belleek Pottery Factory to see firsthand how this world-renowned pottery is created. The factory tour allows visitors to see the pottery being removed from its moulds, being fired & decorated by the Belleek artists. Continue to Londonderry (Derry). Upon arrival meet with your guide and enjoy a walking tour of the walled city. Founded in the 6th century by St. Columba, Derry is the second largest city and port in Northern Ireland. In 1613 the city was selected as a major plantation project, organised by the London livery companies. It was in this year that the walls of Derry were built to protect the town from the Gaelic chieftains in Donegal.

Dinner and an overnight in Donegal

DAY 09, TUE: DONEGAL – BELFAST (B/-/-)

After breakfast travel along the Antrim coast to Belfast, visiting the incredible Giants Causeway en-route. The Causeway was formed more than 60 million years ago when red-hot lava erupted onto the surface of the earth and was cooled by the sea to form the columns which make



up the Giants Causeway. Legend tells a different story however that Fionn mac Cumhaill built the causeway over the sea to Scotland to fight his arch enemy, Fingal, who had started his own path. The two had never met before and when Fionn heard the heavy footsteps of Fingal he turned back. Helped by his wife, Fionn dressed up as a baby and when Fingal arrived and saw Fionn, Fingal assumed the baby's father would be much bigger. This scared him and he went running home, destroying the causeway behind him. Afterwards continue to Belfast. Next stop at the Dark Hedges. This beautiful avenue of beech trees was planted by the Stuart family in the eighteenth century. It was intended as a compelling landscape feature to impress visitors as they approached the entrance to their Georgian mansion, Gracehill House. Two centuries later, the trees remain a magnificent sight and have become one of the most photographed natural phenomena in Northern Ireland. In fact, the iconic trees have been used as a filming location in HBO's epic series Game of Thrones, representing the Kingsroad.

Overnight in Belfast

DAY 10, WED: BELFAST (B/-/-)

This morning enjoy a guided tour of Belfast. See the leaning Albert Memorial Clock Tower (Ireland's answer to the leaning Tower of Pisa) and the Opera House, as well as passing City Hall, the Crown Bar (dating from 1885), Queens University and the Botanic Gardens, you will also visit the Harland & Wolfe Shipyard, where the Titanic was built and launched in 1912. A visit to the Shankill and Falls Road will be of interest as it will give guests an indication of how life was in Belfast during the troubles. Afterwards enjoy the Titanic Experience. Located in the heart of Belfast, the Titanic Belfast recreates the story of the world's most famous ship in a six-floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship's construction. Opened to coincide with the centenary, the self-guided tour begins upon entering the building's giant atrium where visitors are surrounded by the four "ship's hull" shaped wings which house the Titanic Experience. You will uncover the true story of the Titanic from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900's through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and subsequent place in history through nine large galleries full of interactive exhibitions. Highlights include views of the slipways where the Titanic was launched and the voyage to the bottom of the sea in the unique Ocean Exploration Centre. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. Overnight in Belfast

DAY 11, THU: BELFAST – DUBLIN (B/-/-)

Depart this morning for Dublin en-route visiting Slane Distillery. There could be no finer setting in which to discover the nature of whiskey than Ireland's mythical Boyne Valley. Housed within the 250-year-old stables of the iconic Slane Castle Estate, the guided distillery tour uncovers a history like no other. The new state of the art working distillery pays homage to the resilient nature of Ireland's heritage and the surrounding lands. Take a trip back in time as storytellers guide visitors through the fabric of the Conyngham family tapestry, chapter by chapter and immerse guests into the wonderful world of whiskey. Discover the ancient art of Irish whiskey making. Explore the whiskey distillery where three different types of Irish whiskey are made: Malt, Grain and Pot Still. Learn about the process behind the triple casked blend, the craftsmanship that goes into each of the three casks and the flavours and aromas that each cask contributes to the whiskey's smooth yet full bodied character. Complete the interactive, immersive tour with a tutored whiskey tasting that allows one to assess this character for yourself by enjoying a sample of the signature triple casked blend, Slane Irish Whiskey.

Overnight in Dublin



Optional: Evening Entertainment at Taylor's Three Rock (or similar). CAD 94 per person

Visit this lively pub in Rathfarnham for a night of music and dance. A group will regale visitors with ballads both happy and sad and will (after a few pints) have visitors singing along with them. The music is interrupted for a short while to enjoy the best of Irish Dancing guaranteed to get feet tapping.

DAY 12, FRI: DUBLIN (B/-/-)

After breakfast enjoy an orientation tour of Dublin with your tour guide. The north side of the river offers striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city's main thoroughfare O'Connell Street or the Custom House along the quays, as well as Europe's largest public park, Phoenix Park. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian Squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's House can still be found, its colorful doors along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. This part of the city is also home to the house of Bram Stoker, Trinity College, and the Medieval District. Last stop today will be a visit to EPIC the Irish Emigration Museum. This is a state-of-the-art interactive experience located in the beautiful vaults of the 1820 Custom House Quarter building in Dublin's Docklands, the original departure point for so many of Ireland's emigrants. It will inspire and guide you on a journey to discover the stories of Irish emigration around the world, from early times to the modern day. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure.

Overnight in Dublin

Optional: Visit the Guinness Storehouse. CAD 34 per person

The Guinness Storehouse is arguably one of Dublin's most iconic attractions and is hugely popular with visitors to the capital. Guinness is synonymous with Ireland so when you are in Dublin, you cannot leave without a trip to Guinness Storehouse! Learn through the seven-story experience about how the world-famous drink is made and then sample it for yourself at the end in the panoramic Gravity Bar.

DAY 13, SAT: DUBLIN – CANADA (B/-/-)

Today make your own way back to Dublin International Airport for your flight home.

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