

Fishing in Ireland

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

DAY 1: DUBLIN. Upon arrival at Dublin Airport, we are met by our driver-guide and privately transferred into the city, for a brief panoramic sightseeing tour. Then check in for two nights at **The Merrion**, a 5 star hotel superbly located in the heart of Georgian Dublin.



DAY 2: DUBLIN. A full day of sightseeing in Dublin with our driver/guide, including entrance to Trinity College, where you'll see the famous Book of Kells, Parliament, Dublin Castle, the Dublin Writers' Museum and St. Patrick's Cathedral. You'll find the best shops on Grafton Street, where you'll see a great selection of crystal, woolens, lacework and other Irish crafts.



DAY 3: WICKLOW / AVOCA / WATERFORD. Our driver will take us south today for a scenic driver over the Wicklow Mountains and then through the Vale of Avoca to New Ross. Our final destination is Waterford, where we'll enjoy two nights at **Waterford Castle**, a deluxe castle hotel situated on its own island reached by ferry. The Fitzgerald family originally built it in 1160 and features stone arches, old paneling, a fine ribbon plaster ceiling, huge stone fireplace and bathrooms with Victorian baths. The 310-acre estate includes an indoor heated swimming pool, fitness room, snooker, croquet, tennis and clay pigeon shooting. After time to freshen up, we're taken for a memorable evening of food, drink and music at Jack Meade's Pub, one of Ireland's most famous pubs.



DAY 4: FISHING / LOCAL SIGHTSEEING. This morning, those who wish to fish, can do so for Brown Trout in the River Suir (all stated fishing, includes rod rental, license and assistance.) The other guests can visit Kilkenny or the Waterford Glass Factory. This evening we'll enjoy dinner at Waterford Castle.

DAY 5: YOUGHAL / CORK / BLARNEY / MALLOW. Head west along the coast to the fishing village of Youghal, then continue to Cork. A short distance further will bring us to Blarney to visit the ruins of Blarney Castle and to kiss the famous "Stone of Eloquence". You may also want to visit the Blarney Woollen Mills for a positively huge selection of Irish crafts and products. Continue this afternoon to Mallow for two nights at **Longueville House & President's Restaurant**, a magnificent country house hotel sitting in a 500-acre private estate, overlooking the Blackwater Valley. We will have a gourmet meal tonight in the President's Restaurant.



DAY 6: FISHING / LOCAL SIGHTSEEING. Fishing today for Trout & Salmon on the grounds of Longueville Estate in the Blackwater River and the “non-fishers” will visit Anne’s Grove Gardens, woodland gardens overlooking the River Awbeg. Overnight at Longueville House – dinner will be on our own tonight, either in the town or at our hotel.

DAY 7: ADARE / BUNRATTY CASTLE / PORTUMNA. We’re taken north today, stopping in the pretty village of Adare and then continuing to Bunratty Castle, built in 1460 and restored to its 16th century state in the 1950’s. It contains a fine collection of furniture and tapestries. Be sure to notice the exceptional oak roof in the Great Hall. After touring the castle, save time to visit the adjacent Folk Park where you’ll see what country life was like in Ireland at the turn of the century. Continue north to Portumna, by the shores of Lough Derg, where we check in for two nights at **Shannon Oaks Hotel & Country Club**. Adjacent to Portumna Castle and estate, the hotel is ideally located for fishing on the River Shannon. Dinner is included here both evenings.



DAY 8: FISHING / LOCAL SIGHTSEEING. Another full day of fishing, this time for Pike at Ballymacegan on the River Shannon. The “non-fishers” will enjoy an excursion to Clonmacnoise. The monastery of Clonmacnoise, founded in 545 by St. Kieran, was the burial place of the Kings of Connaught and Tara. It is one of the most famous monastic sites in Ireland, second only to Armagh. Its position beside the Shannon now seems remote and inaccessible but in earlier centuries transport was much easier by water than by land. On St. Kieran's Day (September 9) thousands still make a pilgrimage to Clonmacnoise. Dinner and overnight at Shannon Oaks Hotel.

DAY 9: GALWAY / BALLINA. A leisurely drive to Galway, known as the arts capital of Ireland, with its many bookstores, cafes, art galleries and musical pubs. We’ll detour first to see Thoor Ballylee, William Butler Yeats’ 16th century summerhouse. Then to Coole Park, where Lady Gregory used to entertain literary figures, and where we’ll see an autograph tree signed by such famous Irish authors as Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, J. M. Synge and Sean O’Casey. Time for lunch on our own and shopping in Galway, before continuing to Ballina in County Mayo. Three nights included here at the **Downhill House Hotel**, a country house hotel located beside Europe’s best salmon fishing river, the River Moy. Dinner is included tonight at our hotel but the other two nights will be on our own.



DAY 10 / 11: FISHING / LOCAL SIGHTSEEING. Two full days for Salmon fishing on the River Moy (best time of the year for this is mid-June to the end of July). “Non-fishers” have time for sightseeing, including a day exploring the beauties of Connemara, one of the country's remaining "Gaeltachts" where Irish is still widely spoken. First stop at Westport to visit Westport House, a magnificent Georgian mansion owned by the Marquess of Sligo. Built in 1731, it contains a wealth of priceless art, furniture and Irish silver and crystal. Continue via Leenane, where the movie The Field was made, and then the dramatic Kylemore Abbey. Clifden is a delightful fishing village with many interesting craft shops. On the other day, the “non-fishers” can venture into County Sligo and County Donegal. In Donegal, we can visit one of the many weaving factories to witness the ancient art of weaving tweeds and in Belleek we can visit the famous china factory. The area near Sligo is William Butler Yeats’ country. His grave is located in the Drumcliffe Churchyard. Overnights at the Downhill House Hotel.

DAY 12: NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS / FISHING. An early start for Newmarket-on-Fergus, where the fishers enjoy fishing on the grounds of Dromoland Castle. Non-golfers will enjoy an excursion to see the spectacular Cliffs of Moher, a sheer precipice 5 miles long that rises to a height of 668 feet above the Atlantic. It is one of the most impressive coastlines in Ireland and in nesting season is home to a variety of seabirds. We'll enjoy a final night and farewell dinner at **Dromoland Castle**, dating back to the 16th-century, when it belonged to the O'Brien clan. It is set in 370 acres of woods and parkland and includes a championship golf course. It has intimate public rooms with roaring fires, elegant and comfortable seating, many period antiques and a huge collection of family portraits.



DAY 13: DEPART. After breakfast this morning, we're transferred to Shannon Airport for our departure flight and at this time our services end.

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