

# A PORTRAIT OF IRELAND

featuring DUBLIN, BELFAST, DONEGAL & MAYO



Discover Irish history and culture as you travel the breadth of Ireland and Northern Ireland, enjoying stays in vibrant Dublin, historic Belfast, coastal Donegal and verdant County Mayo. In Dublin, Ireland's cosmopolitan capital, visit treasured sites and stroll along its bustling streets. At the Bend of the Boyne, visit a prehistoric monument older than Stonehenge. Explore pretty Donegal in Ireland's remote, northwest corner and the rugged landscape of County Mayo. In Northern Ireland, discover the history of Belfast. Learn about the Troubles, the struggle between Catholics and Protestants in the city. Take a scenic drive along the pristine Antrim Coast and the Giant's Causeway. Take advantage of this special opportunity to enjoy the whole of Irish heritage as you journey across these two countries.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



- Your exclusive **Small-Group experience** is limited to 28 travelers to maximize your travel experience.
- **Hotel accommodations**, renowned for every modern convenience and amenity, in four locations in **two countries**.
- **A uniquely designed itinerary** provides exceptional opportunities to experience the history and culture of **Dublin, Belfast, Donegal and Mayo**.
- Explore the following **UNESCO World Heritage sites**: Brú na Bóinne (Archaeological Ensemble of the Bend of the Boyne), in Ireland and Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast, in Northern Ireland.
- Uncover fascinating history and heritage on your journey through **Ireland's Ancient East and Wild Atlantic Way**.
- Enjoy a cruise around the picturesque **Donegal Bay**.
- Stroll along the **Slieve League Cliffs**. At 2,000 feet (598 meters), they are the highest in Ireland.

## INCLUDED FEATURES

### Accommodations

- **Three nights** in Dublin, Ireland, at **The Westbury Hotel**, a first-class hotel.
- **Two nights** in Belfast, Northern Ireland, at the first-class **Culloden Estate & Spa**.
- **Three nights** in Donegal, Ireland, at the deluxe **Lough Eske Castle**.
- **Two nights** in Westport at the first-class **Westport Plaza Hotel**.

### Transportation

- All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

### Activities and Events

- **Informative educational programs** presented by **local experts** will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Dinner**.

### Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy 10 breakfasts, six lunches and five dinners; tea or coffee with all meals.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

## MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT

Depart for Dublin, Ireland.†

† Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

### DAY 2 ~ DUBLIN

Upon arrival, transfer† to The Westbury Hotel.

#### **Excursion: Orientation Walk.**

Become acquainted with the Irish capital on a walking tour with your Travel Director.

Join a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

### DAY 3 ~ DUBLIN

#### **Educational Focus: How Ireland Saved the World.**

**Excursion: Dublin.** Explore the city of Dublin. Admire the Georgian architecture. Visit Trinity College to see the Book of Kells and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Stroll down Grafton Street.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

### DAY 4 ~ DUBLIN

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy a full day at leisure.

### DAY 5 ~ DUBLIN/BELFAST

**Excursion: Prehistoric Ireland.** En route to Belfast, visit Brú na Bóinne, the Bend of the Boyne, for a closer look at the early history of this region along the Boyne River. View the prehistoric monument at Newgrange, a burial mound built more than 5,000 years ago.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Continue to Northern Ireland. In Downpatrick, visit the burial site of St. Patrick. End in Belfast and check in to the Culloden Estate & Spa.

### DAY 6 ~ BELFAST

**Educational Focus and Excursion: Belfast.** Explore the vibrant capital of Northern Ireland. Admire the Victorian architecture, a legacy from the city's heyday. Discover how this city became a hotbed of sectarian strife.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy lunch in Belfast.

**Excursion: The Titanic.** The RMS Titanic was built in Belfast. Visit an interpretation center to learn more about the ship from its construction to its tragic end.

### DAY 7 ~ DERRY/DONEGAL

**Excursion: Giant's Causeway and County Donegal.** Drive along the Antrim Coast to Giant's Causeway, a

spectacular sight of 40,000 black basalt columns rising from the sea.

**Local Flavors:** Visit Old Bushmills Distillery, which has been making whiskey since 1784, for a tour and a tasting. Enjoy lunch in Derry. Cross into Ireland and check in to Lough Eske Castle in Donegal.

### DAY 8 ~ DONEGAL

**Excursion: Donegal.** Take a cruise around Donegal Bay. Visit the Irish-speaking community of Glencolmcille to learn about traditional rural life. Then stroll along Slieve League, the highest seaside cliffs in Ireland.

### DAY 9 ~ DONEGAL

**Excursion: Glenveagh National Park.** Set on more than 16,000 hectares of mountains, lakes and woods, Glenveagh is the Ireland's largest national park. See Glenveagh Castle and its impressive gardens.

**Local Flavor:** Stop at Leo's Pub for lunch. The pub is owned by the family of Irish singer Enya.

**Educational Focus: Irish Authors.**

### DAY 10 ~ DONEGAL/ WESTPORT

Head to picturesque Sligo, which boasts views of mountains on three sides and a lake to the south.

**Excursion: Yeats.** Visit the grave of W.B. Yeats, the great Irish poet. Continue to County Mayo and Westport. Check in to Westport Plaza Hotel.

### DAY 11 ~ CONNEMARA

**Excursion: Connemara.** Journey through one of Ireland's most rugged and scenic regions. Oscar Wilde once described Connemara's beauty as "savage." See for yourself this starkly beautiful landscape. Continue to Kylemore Abbey, a Benedictine convent. The convent originally was a castle built by an English businessman in the late 19th century. Benedictine nuns purchased the castle in 1920 to establish a school.

Enjoy a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

### DAY 12 ~ IN TRANSIT

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to your gateway city.†

**NOTE:** The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

## ACCOMMODATIONS



### THE WESTBURY HOTEL Dublin

Just off of Dublin's Grafton Street, the hotel is near retail and cultural centers, as well as many popular tourist attractions, including Trinity College and Dublin Castle. The hotel has three dining areas and a bar. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

### CULLODEN ESTATE & SPA Belfast

Not far from the center of Belfast and situated on the slopes of the Holywood hills, the Culloden Estate & Spa was built as a Gothic mansion in 1876. Beautifully decorated rooms feature views of the hotel's beautiful gardens. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

### LOUGH ESKE CASTLE Donegal

Lough Eske Castle is an imposing Tudor castle, lavishly refurbished to create the modern comforts of a world-class boutique hotel. Enjoy a pint of Guinness at either of two bars or savor delicious Irish cuisine at Cedars Grill. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

### WESTPORT PLAZA HOTEL Westport

The first-class Westport Plaza Hotel is just steps away from shops and restaurants. Pamper yourself at Spa Sula, or delight in the swimming pool, whirlpool, fitness center and salon. Restaurant Merlot offers Irish and international cuisine while the Plaza Bar welcomes you for pre-or post dinner drinks. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

Previous page (top to bottom):  
Giant's Causeway  
Bushmills Distillery



AHI Travel  
International Tower  
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
Suite 600  
Chicago, IL 60631