

## Ireland Women-only Tour May 2022

Itinerary dates: May 19 – June 2, 2022

Trip Leader: Beth Whitman

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Tours of the **Wild Atlantic Way**, including the **Ring of Kerry**, the **Cliffs of Moher** and the **Dingle Peninsula**
- Two nights on the remote and magical **Aran Islands**
- A chance to **visit the Blarney Stone** (for good luck!)
- Tastings at the **Guinness Storehouse** and **Jameson's Old Midleton Distillery**
- A **cooking class** featuring traditional Irish foods

**The tour begins on May 19, 2022, with your arrival into Dublin Airport.**

**NOTE:** This tour starts in Dublin and ends in Shannon. You can either schedule your flights as such or you can fly roundtrip Dublin and then make your way to Dublin (via flight, train, bus or share a private ride with other tour participants) at the end of the trip. Please check the [Ireland FAQs](#) for additional information.

If you'd like additional nights prior to or after the tour dates, let us know and we'd be happy to book them for you.

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1

**Thursday, May 19, 2022 – Dublin**

**Meals: n/a**

Today is your arrival day into **Dublin!** You can either make your own way to the hotel via taxi, shuttle or bus (the hotel is conveniently located at a bus stop!) or we can arrange a driver to meet and pick you up.

No meals have been included on this day as arrivals will vary, but we will provide you with a list of nearby restaurants should you want to venture out for some beef stew and soda bread. 😊

Overnight in Dublin at the [Camden Court Hotel](#) or similar.

#### Day 2

**Friday, May 20, 2022 – Dublin**

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

After a wonderful breakfast at the hotel, this first day on the **Emerald Isle** will be spent touring the country's capital, **Dublin!**

We'll start the morning with a visit to **Kilmainham Gaol** (jail), one of the largest unoccupied gaol's in Europe. We'll have a guided tour that explains its role in virtually every act of Ireland's **painful path to independence**.

Afterward, we'll visit the iconic **Guinness Storehouse** where you can take either a guided tour or a self-guided trip through this seven-story building and sample some of the **dark stuff** while **enjoy sweeping 360° views** from the Gravity Bar.



We'll then make our way over to Trinity College where we'll have lunch (on your own) at one of the many nearby restaurants or cafes.

In the afternoon, we'll visit **Trinity College Library** and the **Book of Kells** exhibition. Book lover or not, you'll be astounded by the amazing collection here.

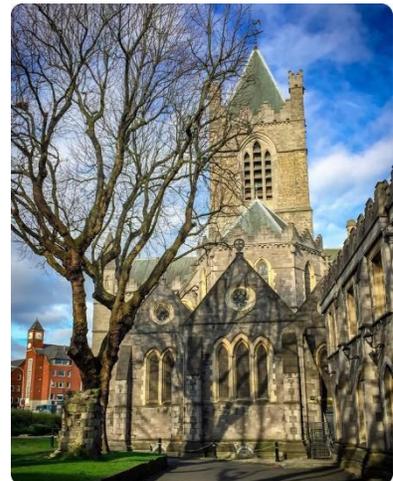
After this visit, we'll head back to the hotel to relax, shake off jet-lag or shop prior to our **welcome dinner**.

Overnight in Dublin at the [Camden Court Hotel](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Today we'll get an excellent overview of **Dublin** and experience the highlights of this very **sophisticated, yet historic** city.

**Day 3**  
**Saturday, May 21, 2022 – Dublin**  
**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

Before leaving the city this morning, we'll make a short visit to **Christ Church Cathedral**, officially known as the seat of both the **Church of Ireland** and **Roman Catholic archbishops of Dublin**.



We'll then travel north to the fishing village of **Howth** where we'll take part in a cooking class at the **Howth Castle Cookery School!** Here, we'll learn how to make (and eat!) a **couple of traditional Irish dishes**.

Afterwards, we'll have some free time to **wander around the village** before heading back to Dublin where you can **explore** and then **enjoy dinner** (on your own) at one of Dublin's many wonderful pubs or fine eateries.

Overnight in Dublin at the [Camden Court Hotel](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** One of the best ways to get to know a culture is through **food** and with a **local** who can teach the **finer points of how to cook** regional dishes. Today we'll have a **hands-on cooking class** where we'll get to enjoy the fruits (as it were) of our labor.

**Day 4**  
**Sunday, May 22, 2022 – Dublin Area**  
**Meals: Breakfast**

After breakfast, we'll travel to County Wicklow and to the country estate of **Powerscourt House and Gardens**, home to what is considered one of the **top gardens in the world**. We'll have time to wander around this beautiful area before we continue to the village of **Avoca** to see the famous **traditional handweavers** at work at the Avoca Mill. It's here that we'll have lunch (on your own).



On our way back to Dublin, we'll visit **Glendalough**, a 6th century monastic site that's nestled in a valley in the **Wicklow Mountains**. We'll have a guided tour here and then time to wander on our own.

Upon returning to Dublin, the remainder of the day will be **free for sightseeing** on your own, shopping and dinner.

Overnight in Dublin at the [Camden Court Hotel](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Today is all about **Ireland's countryside** with its **traditions, charms** and **beautiful landscape**.

**Day 5**  
**Monday, May 23, 2022 – Dublin – Galway**  
**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

This morning after breakfast, we'll check out of our hotel and make our way west toward the dynamic city of **Galway**. Along the way, we'll stop at **Clonmacnoise**, an early Christian site founded by St. Ciarán in the mid-6th century. Located on the eastern bank of the River Shannon, we'll find the **ruins of a cathedral**, churches from the **10th – 13th centuries** and the largest collection of **early Christian grave slabs** in Western Europe. We'll have lunch (on your own) at a nearby restaurant.



We'll drive onward to Galway where we'll check in to the hotel. We may have a bit of time to explore before dinner.

Dinner and overnight in Galway at the [Park House Hotel](#) or similar.

**Day 6**  
**Tuesday, May 24, 2022 – Galway**  
**Meals: Breakfast**

After a leisurely breakfast, we'll take a **walking tour** of Galway with a local guide who will help bring the city (and Ireland) alive with stories! You'll then have the rest of the day free to wander the narrow pedestrian-only streets and alleys of this magic **City of the Tribes!** Once a city of merchants (tribes), Galway is now an **artistic and contemporary destination**, known as one of Ireland's most Irish of cities.



There's so much to enjoy here, including the **Galway Cathedral**, **Spanish Arch**, **Lynch's Castle** and the **Galway Museum**.

Overnight in Galway at the [Park House Hotel](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** What's not to love about **Galway**?! This very manageable city has **lots of things to do** but somehow maintains a **small town feel** and attracts some of the best **buskers** in the world who perform in the streets.

## Day 7

**Wednesday, May 25, 2022 – Galway – Inis Oirr**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

After breakfast, we'll take the ferry to **Inis Oirr**, the smallest (and many say best!) of the **Aran Islands**. This island is a splendid example of **Celtic and early Christian heritage**. The island is rugged and natural with **thatch-roofed stone cottages** dotting the landscape. In the afternoon, we'll take an **Aran knit workshop**, attend an **Irish brown bread-making workshop** and then have dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight on Inis Oirr at various B&Bs.

**NOTE** – On this day, we'll only be carrying a small overnight bag for our two nights on Inis Oirr. We'll leave the majority of our things secured with our driver who will meet us in two days. The ferry ride might be a bit rough. Those prone to motion or sea sickness might want to bring medication or a natural remedy.



★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Today we'll get to experience the **Wild Atlantic Way** from the water when we take the ferry to Inis Oirr. We'll instantly be **transported back in time** once we set foot on the Aran Islands.

## Day 8

**Thursday, May 26, 2022 – Inis Oirr (and Inis Mor)**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Today we'll take the local island ferry and venture to the largest Aran Island, **Inis Mor**. Here, we'll take a tour that will include a visit to the island's main attraction, the stone fort, **Dun Aengus**. We'll be making a short hike to the cliffs here, so walking shoes are recommended.

We'll have lunch at a charming restaurant and have a chance to pop into a few of the local shops as well.

Upon returning to Inis Oirr, we'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and then overnight on at various B&Bs.

**Day 9**  
**Friday, May 27, 2022 – Inis Oirr – Dingle**  
**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

After breakfast, we'll take the **ferry to Doolin** where we'll meet back up with our bus and driver. We'll have a chance to stroll around this **sleepy fishing village** (known as the **home of traditional Irish music!**), to souvenir shop, grab a cup of coffee or have lunch (on your own).



We'll then visit one of Ireland's natural wonders and most popular destinations in the country: the **Cliffs of Moher**. The cliffs rise to over 700 feet and provide magnificent 360 degree views. We'll have time to **walk around and photograph** the area before driving to the charming fishing village and **artistic community of Dingle**.

Dinner and overnight in Dingle at [Dingle Skellig Hotel](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** You've seen them in countless photos, but the **Cliffs of Moher** are far more **beautiful** and **dramatic** in person. This will definitely be one of many highlights of the tour.

**Day 10**  
**Saturday, May 28, 2022 – Dingle**  
**Meals: Breakfast**

This morning, we'll journey west for a tour of the breathtaking **Dingle Peninsula**. Perhaps not as well-known as the Iveragh Peninsula where the Ring of Kerry is located, the Dingle Peninsula is less touristy but **every bit as beautiful**.

While on the peninsula, we can try our hand at making pottery at **Louis Mulcahy's studio**. Everyone will have the chance for a short one-on-one lesson. While those are happening, you may enjoy lunch (on your own) at the small upstairs cafe. We'll then return to Dingle where we'll have a chance to explore the many pubs and restaurants the town has to offer.

Overnight in Dingle at [Dingle Skellig Hotel](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** It's difficult to say which you'll love more: the **drive around the Dingle Peninsula** or the truly **charming town itself**. Either way, this will be another incredible day on Ireland's west coast.

**Day 11**  
**Sunday, May 29, 2022 – Dingle – Killarney**  
**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Today we'll travel to **Killarney** where we'll have **lunch in town** before checking in to the hotel. We'll then have the afternoon free to **explore, relax** or enjoy our **beautiful hotel** on the lake.



Tonight, we'll have a wonderful dinner at the hotel and then break out our **dancing shoes** during a traditional **Irish dance workshop** at the hotel!

Overnight in Killarney at [The Lake Hotel](#) or similar.

### Day 12

**Monday, May 30, 2022 – Killarney**

**Meals: Breakfast**

Today after breakfast, we'll visit **Jameson's Old Midleton Distillery** and learn how their whiskey is made and how it differs from whiskeys made elsewhere. After a fabulous tour and tasting, we'll have lunch at the distillery (on your own).

We'll then drive to **Blarney Castle** where the famous Blarney Stone can be found. We'll walk the grounds, tour the gardens and, perhaps, **touch (rather than kiss) the Blarney Stone** to receive the luck!

Tonight we'll have dinner on our own so you can explore Killarney's many restaurant options.

Overnight in Killarney at [The Lake Hotel](#) or similar.

### Day 13

**Tuesday, May 31, 2022 – Killarney**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**



Today we're going to experience more of Ireland's legendary scenery as we drive the **Ring of Kerry**. The road winds around Ireland's highest mountains, the Macgillycuddy's Reeks, and the Atlantic coast. This is called the **Wild Atlantic Way** for a reason and you'll soon see why.

At the most **dramatic scenery**, we'll stop for photos and to take in the **breathtaking views**. We'll also visit The Skellig Experience Visitor Centre where we'll learn about the monks who lived on the Skellig Islands. (By the way, Skellig Michael was a location for the filming of **Star Wars: The Force Awakens**. Watch it before the trip!)

We'll continue through the remote villages of **Cahirciveen** and **Waterville**—one of Charlie Chaplin's favorite places—and pass through the colorful village of **Sneem**. We'll also stop at **Moll's Gap** to see the Three Lakes of Killarney. We'll even have a chance to stop and stroll around the **Muckross Gardens** located on the shores of Muckross Lake.

Dinner will be on your own again so you can **choose your preference**. Perhaps light bar fare or a full dinner at the hotel or something in town suits your fancy?

Overnight in Killarney at [The Lake Hotel](#) or similar.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Today will be a full day with lots of eye candy as you take in sights that you may have only previously seen in dramatic photographs of the **Ring of Kerry**.

## Day 14

**Wednesday, June 1, 2022 – Killarney – Bunratty – Shannon**

**Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner**

Today, on our last full day in Ireland, we'll leave Killarney and visit **Bunratty Castle**. Dating back to the 1400s, this is one of the most **well-restored and authentic castles** in Ireland. We'll tour this beautiful and ancient fortress and then drive onward to check in at the spectacular **Dromoland Castle**. We'll have a chance to settle in and enjoy **afternoon tea** for a full castle experience.

In the evening, we'll head out for our **final dinner** at a local favorite restaurant.

Overnight in Shannon at [Dromoland Castle](#).

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** This will be a wonderful final day in Ireland as we experience two castles—**sleeping at Dromoland** and **touring Bunratty**, one of the most interesting castles in Ireland.



## Day 15

**Thursday, June 2, 2022 – Shannon – Departure Home**

**Meals: Breakfast**

Today you can depart via nearby Shannon Airport for home (or your next destination) or return to Dublin for your onward flight.

**\*\* Itinerary subject to change without notice.**