



## Are We There Yet?, LLC

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# Ireland Express

**A shorter tour, the Ireland Express is great for those who are unable to be gone ten days, or for those who miss the Emerald Isle and want to visit again.  
Sept 3-9, 2017**

Ireland is one of our favorite places in the world to visit. In fact, it was the tour that brought us together, as we met when I interviewed Declan to help plan our first *Castles and Manors of Ireland* tour! However, we have heard from many of our travelers that are still working that they would love to travel to Ireland, but cannot be gone for the 10 days. So we decided to add a shorter Ireland tour, focusing only on the southern part of the island. Never fear, we are going to offer our 10 day *Backroads of Ireland* tour in 2018, but for those who have limited time to travel, this is a great way to experience the Emerald Isle! And for those who have been to Ireland before, we have some hidden gems that we have never included on any of our previous Ireland tours! This is a custom tour created by us. You will not find this tour itinerary offered anywhere else. And remember when comparing our tour to others, that ALL the transfers, gratuities and admissions are included plus the tour is LIMITED to 30 passengers and will run with 20, a big difference from 48 on many tours. Dea and Declan start with you right from the Saint Louis so if something goes awry, you are never left on your own. We will also have a pre-tour meeting with everyone to answer all your questions about traveling abroad and if you cannot make the meeting, we will make arrangements to meet with you separately. We also purchase currency for you prior to departure so time is not wasted on the ground stopping at the Euro exchange.

### **Sun, Sept 3 - On our way to Ireland!**

Meet your tour directors Dea and Declan at the Saint Louis Airport, where we begin our journey to Ireland aboard Delta Airlines with one stop in Atlanta. Delta was over \$350 less than United or American so we scooped that airfare right up. There will be meals served on the plane, and try to get some sleep. Tomorrow we will be in Ireland! **(D on plane)**

### **Mon, Sept 4 - Galway City**

We arrive this morning in Dublin, where, after clearing customs and collecting our bags, we meet our experienced and affable driver guide who will lead us to our coach. We then head west through the scenic midlands of Ireland and stop in **Connemara**, famous for its colorful marble and one of the few truly Irish products found on the market. We will visit a family who has worked with the marble for generations, creating some of the most amazing jewelry and home goods items.

Then we arrive in Galway, the Cultural Heart of Ireland and a sister city to Saint Louis! The fourth largest city in the Republic of Ireland, Galway is an ancient city, dating back to the 12th century. We take a journey through the city like those from a century before, on foot. Our local guide is famous for his ability to weave the ancient history with the modern developments of this incredible city. After we check into The Harbour Hotel, the evening is yours to enjoy on your own. **(B on plane)**

## **Tues, Sept 5 - Bunratty Folk Park and the Foynes Flying Boat Museum**

After a hearty Irish Breakfast, we head to **Bunratty Castle & Folk Park**, with its large collection of 19th century homes with all original furniture set on 26 acres. The Folk Park sits in the shadow Bunratty Castle, the medieval fortress built in 1425 to protect from invaders. Step inside to view the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Century furnishings including tapestries and works of art. At the Park see firsthand what life would have been like for those living at the turn of the century as you walk down a recreated village street. Costumed characters recreate the traditions and lifestyle of a bygone age and animate the Folk Park. Among these well-known and loved characters are the Bean a Ti (woman of the house), RIC (Royal Irish Constabulary) policeman, and Schoolteacher. Traditional jobs and crafts are also represented, milling, the forge, pottery, printing, baking, farming etc.

Next we head along the banks of the Shannon Estuary to the **Flying Boat Museum** in **Foynes**, a small town that had a huge impact on air travel. The first transatlantic flights were known as “Flying Boats” as they used waterways for their runways, and from 1939 to 1945, flights to and from New York used the nearby estuary. You can even go into a full scale replica of the Boeing 314, built to the exact plans of the original flying boats. In addition to the Flying Boats, Foynes is famous for another cultural contribution: **The Irish Coffee** was invented at Foynes, and we enjoy a demonstration and a taste test of this wonderful concoction!

Our next stop is **Dingle**, an ancient port town on the beautiful Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry. After checking in at The Dingle Skellig Hotel, the evening is yours to explore the colorful town, full of brightly painted buildings.

**(B)**

## **Wed, Sept 6 - Dingle Peninsula, Harbor Cruise and Kinsale, the “Foodie” Capital of Ireland**

After a hearty Irish Breakfast, we explore the **Dingle Peninsula**, a place *National Geographic* called “the most beautiful place on earth.” As Dingle is the only town on the peninsula, the land is rugged and unspoiled. The views of the Atlantic are breathtaking, as we head to the most western point of Ireland. The Dingle Peninsula has also been featured in film, serving as the location for both the 1970 film *Ryan’s Daughter* and the 1992 film *Far and Away*, starring Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise.

After seeing the sights by land, we take to the sea on a **Dingle Harbor cruise**. Keep an eye out for one of Dingle’s most popular celebrities, **Fungie** (pronounced FUN-gee) the Bottlenose Dolphin! A resident since 1983, Fungie became famous for interacting with humans, splashing kayakers and bringing fish to divers.

We then head to **Kinsale**, the “foodie” capital of Ireland. The Trident Hotel looks over the pristine harbor of this historic fishing town in County Cork. Walk among the old buildings on cobblestone streets as you explore the incredible restaurants, pubs and shops that have made Kinsale famous. **(B)**

## **Thurs, Sept 7 - Cobh, Blarney and riding the rails to Dublin**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before we head to **Cobh**, perhaps the most famous emigration port of Ireland. Thousands sailed from Cobh looking for a better life during the famine years and beyond, including a very famous young woman, Annie Moore. Worried about the immigration process, she got herself and her two brothers up early on the morning of January 1st, 1892, and thus was the first immigrant to come through Ellis Island, New York. There are two **statues of Annie Moore**, one at Ellis Island and one here in Cobh. Cobh earned its place in history for a more tragic reason, serving as the last port of call for the Titanic before she sank.

**The Queenstown Story** is a self-guided tour relaying the tales of Emigration to North America, transportation of Convicts to Australia, the story of the Irish slaves in the West Indies and, of course, the Titanic and the Lusitania disasters. As you experience the Queenstown Story, find out as you navigate the museum if you survived the voyage or what turn your characters life took. We have done this several times and everyone emerges with a deeper understanding of leaving your past to seek your future, sometimes under a judge’s order.

Our next stop is **Blarney Castle**, home to both the incredible **Woolen Mill** as well as the famous **Blarney Stone!** If you wish to kiss it and gain the famous gift of eloquence and gab, you will have the opportunity. Climb up to the top of the castle and lean out to kiss it, as it is placed high in the wall over a multi-story drop. Make sure you empty your pockets before attempting! The Blarney Woolen Mill is a great place to get souvenirs to send home to your friends and family back home VAT tax free. They will even ship direct to your house!

After our visit to Blarney, we head out to board the **Cork to Dublin train**. Enjoy the scenery as we arrive into the capital city via rail, where we then head to The Camden Court Hotel for two nights, located in center city. Explore the city at your leisure. **(B)**

### **Fri, Sept 8 - Dublin City Free Day**

After breakfast, the day is yours to enjoy however you desire. Settled by the Vikings, Dublin has served as the capital of Ireland since the Normans invaded in 1167. We have purchased tickets to the **hop-on hop-off coach** tours so you can get around the city easily, with 23 stops that put you close to popular attractions such as Dublin Castle, Trinity College where the Book of Kells is housed, and the Guinness Brewery. Dublin is also famous for the Georgian Squares, 18th century houses and amazing architecture, including the St. Patrick's Cathedral. Whatever your interests, you can find it in Dublin! **(B)**

### **Sat, Sept 9 - Homeward bound**

After a final breakfast, we head to the airport for our flight home to Saint Louis. Dea and Declan will go over immigration en route to the airport as we are able to immigrate in Dublin prior to landing in the US. They will also take back any of your unspent Euros to exchange back to Dollars. Thank you for traveling with us! **(B)**

**Price:**

\$2,473 pp, dbl    \$2,721 pp, sgl

***Save 3% on this tour! Tour the Emerald Isle for \$2,399 pp dbl occ\*  
when you pay with check or money order!***

\$2,399 pp dbl    \$2,612 pp sgl

\*These prices reflect 3% savings by paying with check or money order

Tour includes:

- Round Trip Airfare with one stop in Atlanta each way. \*Ask about our special hotel rates at St. Louis airport hotel prior to and/or after the tour. \*
- Touring in Are We There Yet?'s private charter motorcoach
- Deluxe hotel accommodations throughout Ireland
- Full Irish Breakfasts each day, plus meals on the plane
- Tour the ancient city of Galway by foot and by coach
- Explore the Bunratty Folk Park, with its collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century homes and furnishings set on 26 acres
- Visit the Foynes Flying Boat museum, including the only full size replica of a Boeing 314 Flying Boat
- Irish Coffee Demo and tasting
- Enjoy the rugged beauty of the Dingle Peninsula on a scenic drive
- Dingle Harbor cruise, where we hope to see Dingle's most famous resident, Fungie the Dolphin
- Explore Kinsale, the Foodie capital of Ireland
- Tour the "Queenstown Experience" in Cobh, honoring the waves of emigrants that passed through looking for a better life
- Time to explore the Blarney Woolen Mills and kiss the Blarney Stone
- Ride the Rails as we take the train from Cork to Dublin
- Free day in Dublin with tickets to the Hop-on Hop-Off bus tours
- 2 Professional Tour Directors
- All gratuities including drivers and directors

*Please note: Any notice of fuel surcharges imposed by carriers and/or attractions will be disclosed at least 30 days prior to tour departure.*

***Make your reservation with a \$500 deposit per person. Once this tour fills, a wait list will be formed. Please send a check or call with a credit card along with your legal name, address, phone number, and all roommates' names if you are sharing a room and any dietary or walking restrictions.***

***We encourage all travelers to purchase travel protection with initial deposit. Include Travel Protection payment with deposit, if purchasing. Please remember that certain benefits are***

***Time sensitive. Plans help provide coverage for unexpected circumstances and help protect your trip and your investment.***

***Please ensure that you have either a valid, unexpired passport. You will not be allowed to fly without the proper documents, and travel protection will not cover any expenses due to not having valid travel documents. If you have a TSA Pre-Check or Global Entry Number, please give that to us at final payment date as Delta will have to add it in with our final payment. Remember, they have the right to send you through the normal security line at random. This has never happened to us, but it is a possibility with the program.***

***Balance on base tour price is due May 30, 2017, and no refunds will be given after that time. If you purchase Travel Protection and need to cancel after May 30, 2017, you must file a claim. If you attempt to book after this date, there may be a substantial increase in price or you may have to arrive on a separate flight.***

***Have friends or family in another city? We can help to arrange their rendezvous with you on the tour either in St. Louis, Atlanta or in Dublin. Just ask Maggie how and she can arrange all the details. Remember, when you travel with Are We There Yet?, you get to leave the planning with us.***