



Springtime in Ireland

Seven Festive Days & Evenings of Fun, Food and Everything Irish!

A TRIPS Signature Tour  9 Days and 7 Nights  March 26 – April 3, 2025

We invite you to join us and see the Ireland no one else offers, featuring three highly diverse evenings of lively traditional Irish music and culture, set against the gorgeous backdrop of Ireland's most amazing sites and their stunning Springtime scenery!

Join us on this exhilarating weeklong tour of the Emerald Isle ... a land of breathtaking scenery, and of warm and friendly people! From the beautiful capital city of Dublin to Waterford, home of the famous crystal, you'll discover a country that delights travelers over and over again. Tour wonderful ancient castles and circle the astoundingly gorgeous Ring of Kerry! Of course there's a stop at ancient Blarney Castle where you can kiss the Blarney Stone! And while you're constantly charmed by the wit and music of Ireland, you'll also be spellbound by the glorious beauty of this island country.

The deep green fields dotted with fluffy white sheep, the rugged cliffs sloping down to the pounding surf, the musical pub nights — Ireland truly has it all!

Itinerary

March 26, 2025 - Your Journey Begins!

Depart the United States for your overnight flight to Europe.

March 27, 2025 - Welcome to Dublin / Delightful Irish Harpist!

Arriving in **Dublin**, you'll discover a great city full of happy contrasts. Traditional quirky old pubs stand right next to modern bars of pale wood and aluminum, as the aromas of both freshly brewed coffee and Guinness brewery hops mingle enticingly! Upon arrival, you'll be met by your private driver/guide and enjoy a **sightseeing tour** of this elegant and artistic capital dotted with spacious Georgian squares and row houses with brightly painted doors. You'll see the stately **Bank of Ireland** building (the former Parliament House) and **Leinster House**, which today holds the Republic's Parliament. After your tour with lunch on your own, you'll transfer to your central Dublin hotel. The rest of the afternoon is yours to unwind, or perhaps begin exploring exciting Dublin on your own a bit. This evening, along with your **Welcome-to-Ireland drink and Irish dinner**, you're invited to a **TRIPS private and exclusive concert** introducing you to the **sublime enchantment of Gaelic harp music**, a special and memorable performance that's been arranged just for you! This beguiling Irish national instrument is one you're bound to find delightfully different from the standard harp!

Overnight: Dublin - Mont Hotel

(D)

March 28, 2025 - Kilkenny Castle / Waterford Crystals & Crooks!

After breakfast you'll go southward to **Kilkenny**, among the most medieval cities in Ireland, for a guided tour of **Kilkenny Castle**. In 1967, this magnificent castle dating back nearly 600 years to 1391 was bequeathed to the people of Kilkenny for a token payment of £50. Its Picture Gallery Wing is a delight, and today is home to part of **Ireland's National Art** collection. Your next stop is the famous **Waterford Crystal Factory** where you'll have time to watch crystal pieces being created as well as browse in their gift shop. You'll check into your hotel for the evening and meet in the lobby for a one-of-a-kind **tour of**

Waterford on foot, hosted by your local guide renowned for his **wickedly charming Irish "gift o' gab."** The region's history will spring to life as your storyteller spins wild tales of the scandals and drama of bygone days. Your tour includes national monuments, cathedrals, and a whole gallery of rogues, rascals and reprobates! This light-hearted mix of history and hilarity has won numerous awards, and you'll surely find yourself laughing while entranced by your guide's lilting Irish brogue! Afterward, enjoy tonight's dinner in your hotel's acclaimed dining room.

Overnight: Waterford - Marina Hotel

(B/D)

March 29, 2025 - Kissin' the Blarney Stone / Cobh to Killarney!

Today following breakfast, you'll travel along the scenic south coast to **Cobh**, the last port of call for the ill-fated "Titanic"! You'll visit the intriguing **Cobh Heritage Centre**, which traces the often rocky history of Irish emigration to the United States. Continue on to Blarney, where you can climb the steps of fabled **Blarney Castle** to kiss its famous **"Stone of Eloquence."** Built over 600 years ago, it's one of Ireland's greatest treasures! You'll have time to enjoy the castle's beautiful gardens with its 60 acres of avenues, waterways and arboretums. You'll also get an opportunity to shop at **Blarney Woolen Mills** for quality Irish goods, featuring nearly every product made in Ireland. From fine crystal to beautiful porcelain from **Belleek**, you're sure to find just the right gift for that special someone back home. Continue on to **Killarney** and check into your hotel with tonight's dinner included, leaving you time this evening to enjoy the nearby quaint and colorful shops and pubs.

Overnight: 4 Star Central Killarney Hotel

(B/D)

March 30, 2025 - Ring Around the Kerry!

Today you embark on Ireland's most popular scenic drive — the **Ring of Kerry**. This full day tour will reveal constantly changing vistas of mountains, beaches, and cliffs as you travel through the picturesque villages of **Waterville** and **Sneem** with plenty of stops for photos along the way, including a marvelous demonstration of highly skilled **Irish**

sheepdogs at Kissane Farm herding their sheep down off the rugged hillsides! This entire mountainous, lake-bejeweled region is wondrously scenic, and you'll never tire of the eternal beauty of the Irish landscape! After a full day marveling at shades of green, return to your hotel with tonight's dinner on your own. This evening if you wish, your TRIPS guide will take you around to visit one of **Killarney's famous "singing" pubs**, where you can experience traditional Irish music! Most tours will send you to a "touristy" venue, but tonight you can experience a **real neighborhood pub with traditional Irish music**, complete with a peat fire and local musicians who gather for the sheer love of playing their ancestral songs. It's a great way to get a taste of genuine Irish culture with these fun-loving folks on their own turf!

Overnight: 4 Star Central Killarney Hotel (B)

March 31, 2025 - Lovely Adare Village / Warm & Friendly Ennis!

After today's breakfast you'll visit **Adare**, widely regarded to be Ireland's prettiest and most picturesque village. Snuggled into a lush wooded countryside setting, you'll want to be ready to take photos of the **charming thatched cottages** along the main street. Later this afternoon, you'll continue through **Limerick** (that's no joke) before checking in to your hotel in the quaint village of **Ennis**, often declared **"the friendliest town in Ireland"**! In the heart of County Clare on the River Fergus, the town is notable for its easily walkable narrow, winding streets, lovely old buildings and bustling marketplace atmosphere. Following tonight's dinner at the hotel, you'll find Ennis the perfect spot to pop into one of the many **warm and welcoming local pubs** for plenty of cordial greetings and a refreshing pint!

Overnight: Ennis - Old Ground Hotel (B/D)

April 1, 2025 - Soaring Cliffs of Moher / Sunset on Galway Bay!

After breakfast, you'll travel to the coast of County Clare to view the **Cliffs of Moher**, Ireland's most visited natural attraction rising 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean! From the cliffs' towering heights and crashing waves far below, to their ageless legends and endless flurrying birds, the Cliffs of Moher are simply a natural masterpiece. You can enjoy a stroll along the cliffs here as well as a bit of browsing in the gift shop. After lunch on your own, you'll continue on through **"The Burren."** Completely unlike any other place in all of Ireland, you'll see no bogs and few pastures, but instead will find huge expanses of limestone very much like a moonscape! You'll then continue along part of scenic **Galway Bay** toward Galway City, and later on you'll dine in your hotel this evening in the charming and lively little city of Galway.

Overnight: Galway - Park House Hotel (B/D)

April 2, 2025 - Irish Pub Farewell Evening in Old Dublin!

Today, you'll return to **Dublin** across rich farmland, stopping along the way for lunch on your own. Your afternoon is free to enjoy the abundant shops along pedestrianized **Grafton Street** or **Henry Street**, or perhaps visit a few of the many popular and friendly pubs. Tonight's highlight is your **fun-filled Farewell Dinner at famed Taylors Three Rock Pub**, a rip-roaring evening of song and dance with quality Irish food specialties - a joyful finale indeed to your **Emerald Isle** tour!

Overnight: Dublin - Royal Marine Hotel (B/D)

April 3, 2025 - Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow!

After breakfast, you'll depart for the airport and your flight back to the United States, with arrival on the same day. **The wonderful memories of your Springtime in Ireland tour will surely last a lifetime!** (B)

Please note that itineraries are always subject to change, and that all information listed here was fully accurate as of the date of printing.

Springtime in Ireland



\$4,998.00

per person/double occupancy



Single Supplement is an additional \$1,298.00

Passports are required for this trip!

Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and recommended.

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airfare from Houston to Dublin, Ireland (from certain major gateway cities only, your pricing may be higher from smaller ones; checked baggage fees are not included)
- 7 nights hotel accommodations in Ireland
- **Welcome-to-Ireland dinner & private Irish Harpist concert!**
- 7 full Irish breakfasts
- **6 dinners, including your special farewell pub dinner complete with lively Irish entertainment!**
- Visits to Blarney Castle, Waterford Crystal Factory, Kilkenny Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Ring of Kerry, Cobh Heritage Center and much more!
- Special Waterford City narrated "Gift o' Gab" tour
- Private transport by deluxe motor coach throughout the itinerary
- Services of a professional Irish driver/guide
- All admissions as listed in the detailed itinerary
- Portage of 1 full sized suitcase per person
- All airline and hotel taxes and surcharges

Call today to reserve your space!!!

CST # 2057913-10

Reservations for **"Springtime in Ireland"** are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$650.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

This deposit is fully refundable up to December 2, 2024. **Final Payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before December 2, 2024.**

Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted at least 10 days prior to this date.

100% non-refundable as of December 2, 2024.

Payments may be made by checks made payable to **TRIPS**

18111 Superior St. Northridge, CA 91325

or by credit card by visiting Lamar.edu/cardinaladventures and following the link for this trip.

Your Lamar University contact is Laurie Ritchel, University Travel Programs Coordinator,

who may be reached at (409) 790-4307 or laurie.ritchel@lamar.edu. You may also contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@lamar.edu.

Mikki Walker at TRIPS may also be contacted at (818) 753-4530 or mikki@gotripsinc.com with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

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