



# IRELAND - CULTURE HERITAGE TOUR

*Customize your itinerary and choose your own travel dates*



## AN TURAS HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS

### **Kirsty Duncan**

Born and raised in the Highlands of Scotland, I have always loved exploring the mountains, lochs, rivers and forests of Scotland and further afield. Over the years I have become fascinated with the remote ruined villages and crofts of the Highlands and Islands and I've developed a passion for our amazing Neolithic sites (of which we have many). My love of learning about Scottish history and heritage continues to grow the more I learn and explore.

After 8 years of working for a renowned UK-based tour operator and laterally with a focus on delivering bespoke, private tours in Scotland, I have a wealth of experience in all that the country has to offer.

Favourite regions: Argyll on the West Coast, the Orkney Islands and the Inner Hebrides – each has their own character and unique landscape.

Favourite Sites: Kilmartin Glen, Maes Howe, Bosta Bay & Arichonan



## IRELAND CULTURAL HERITAGE TOUR

### **Overview**

Lichen-pickled traditional stone walls, undulating soft green fields, an ancient history and warm people, oh and maybe the odd spot of rain. There are many images Ireland conjures in the mind of a wanderer and this wonderful adventure in Ireland offers you all the time in the world to explore and enjoy.
















Whether your day consists of an exhilarating hike on a remote peninsula, an afternoon wandering the quaint cobbled streets of a little village or breathing in the sea air along the coastal roads and bylanes, on this private tour of Ireland you will be met with warm smiles and an open heart by the people who call this land home.

### **Activity Level**






Speak to your travel designer about how active you like to be on vacation. This trip can be adapted to include easy, moderate or more challenging hikes, or you can choose to do a less active version.

We will pair you up with a guide who is most suited to your activity level.

## Itinerary Overview

Day	Activities
Day 1	<p> Meet Your Guide</p> <hr/> <p> Galway Food Tour</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at Ballynahinch Castle Hotel</p>
Day 2	<p> Killary Fjord Hike</p> <hr/> <p> Overnight at Ballynahinch Castle Hotel</p>
Day 3	<p> Check Out from Ballynahinch Castle Hotel</p> <hr/> <p> Sheep Dogs In The Burren</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at Gregans Castle Hotel</p>
Day 4	<p> The Aran Islands</p> <hr/> <p> Overnight at Gregans Castle Hotel</p>
Day 5	<p> Check Out from Gregans Castle Hotel</p> <hr/> <p> Bunratty Castle</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at Pax House</p>
Day 6	<p> Exploring the Dingle Peninsula</p> <hr/> <p> Overnight at Pax House</p>

## Itinerary Overview

Day	Activities
Day 7	<p data-bbox="363 422 743 457"> Check Out from Pax House</p> <hr data-bbox="363 485 1528 489"/> <p data-bbox="363 516 656 552"> Dublin Walking Tour</p> <hr data-bbox="363 579 1528 583"/> <p data-bbox="363 611 773 646"> Check In at The Merrion Hotel</p>
Day 8	<p data-bbox="363 728 831 764"> Check Out from The Merrion Hotel</p> <hr data-bbox="363 791 1528 795"/> <p data-bbox="363 823 737 894"> Transfer departs Dublin Transfer arrives The Airport</p>

## Your Accommodations

Day	Accommodation	Details	Nights
Day 1 - 3	Ballynahinch Castle Hotel	-	2
Day 3 - 5	Gregans Castle Hotel	-	2
Day 5 - 7	Pax House	-	2
Day 7 - 8	The Merrion Hotel	-	1

## Map



## Summary

- 1) Day 1 - 3: Ballynahinch Castle Hotel, Connemara
- 2) Day 3 - 5: Gregans Castle Hotel, Ballyvaughan
- 3) Day 5 - 7: Pax House, Dingle
- 4) Day 7 - 8: The Merrion Hotel, Dublin



## DAY 1

### Meet Your Guide

Arriving into Ireland this morning, your guide will meet you at the airport and together you will begin your journey West. The characterful town of Galway is the capital of Ireland's West, known as the 'town of the tribes', the cobblestone streets and colourful store fronts are vibrant, fun and cosmopolitan.

### Galway Food Tour

What better way to spend an afternoon in beautiful Galway than a delectable food tour? Stop off in the city and tantalise your taste buds with a delightful journey through Galway's culinary scene. From artisanal cheeses, craft beers, to handcrafted chocolate, this will be a true feast for the senses.

After your tour, a stroll through shop street and a coffee stop at the Spanish Arch is recommended.

Afterwards, continue to your accommodation for the next two nights located in the rugged region of Connemara. Ballynahinch Castle is one of Ireland's finest luxury castle hotels, set in a private 700 acre estate of woodland, rivers and walks in the heart of Connemara, Co. Galway. This authentic and unpretentious Castle Hotel stands proudly overlooking its famous salmon fishery, with a backdrop of the beautiful Twelve Bens Mountain range.

**Included Meals:** Lunch and Dinner

**Check in at Ballynahinch Castle Hotel**





## DAY 1

2 Nights

### Property Overview

Welcome to Ballynahinch Castle Hotel, one of Ireland's finest luxury castle hotels. Set in a private 700-acre estate of woodland, rivers, and walks in the heart of Connemara, Co. Galway. This authentic and unpretentious Castle Hotel stands proudly overlooking its famous salmon fishery, with a backdrop of the beautiful 12 Bens Mountain Range.

During your stay relax in your beautifully appointed bedroom or suite with wonderful views, wake up to the sound of the river meandering past your window before enjoying breakfast in the elegant restaurant. The restaurant was voted Best Hotel Restaurant in Ireland by Food & Wine Magazine in November 2021 and uses the best of local and estate produce.

### Experience & Activities

There are some who visit Ballynahinch Castle Hotel and Estate and never leave the grounds, such is the choice of unique activities available in the heart of beautiful Connemara. Hiking the popular trails, taking a fly-fishing tutorial, biking, or simply sitting in the tranquility of the grounds listening to the song of the river as it makes its interminable journey to the sea; there are so many things to do and ways to engage with Connemara.

One of the great attractions of Ballynahinch Castle Hotel is that all these activities are easily accessible without difficulty and delivered by professional and enthusiastic guides. Every morning one of the experienced fishing guides, and their walking guide Kieran are available in Reception at 9.30 am for a coffee and a chat. Whether you have already booked an activity, want to do so, or are simply seeking advice; they will ensure that your day gets off to a great start.



## DAY 1

### **Fast Facts**

### **Highlights**

One of Ireland's finest luxury castle hotels

Set in a private 700-acre estate of woodland, rivers, and walks in the heart of Connemara, County Galway

Proudly overlooking its famous salmon fishery, with a backdrop of the beautiful 12 Bens Mountain Range

Located along the Wild Atlantic Way

### **Quick facts**

48 rooms & suites

Restaurant

Bar

Lounge

Gardens

Trails

Fishing

Meeting & event space

Wifi



## DAY 2

### Killary Fjord Hike

The hills and mountains of Connemara are defined by the ocean surrounding them, and this is particularly evident at the beautiful Killary Fjord. This morning your guide will lead you along the shores of the fjord, delving into Irish history at a famine-era abandoned village and bringing to life the rich and ancient histories of the landscape.

#### *Site of historic interest*

During the devastating 'Great Famine' in the 19th century many people in Ireland either died or fled the country, decreasing the population by 20-25%.

It is thought that at least 1 million Irish emigrated abroad, most of whom went to North America to start afresh.

Continue to the stunningly beautiful Kylemore Abbey and Gardens to tour the grounds and hear the romantic story behind this iconic site.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Overnight at Ballynahinch Castle Hotel**



## DAY 3

### Check out from Ballynahinch Castle Hotel

#### The Burren

Departing Connemara this morning, it's time to head further south to Co. Clare. The Burren's rocky alien landscape is said to be the inspiration for Middle Earth in JRR Tolkien's world-famous Lord of the Rings trilogy – and today as you explore this other-worldly region, it's easy to see why!

#### Sheep Dogs In The Burren

You will visit a local sheep farm where you'll enjoy a private tour and watch the sheepdogs at work. This tour will also include a walk to a prehistoric stone fort, with a worldly history which will be brought to life by the farm's local guide and multi-sensory presentations. Excavations from the site, ranging from Venetian glass and Baltic amber, serve to juxtapose the ancient settlement against its contemporary trading inhabitants.

Your accommodation for the next two nights is a family run, 18th century manor house, complete with welcoming open fires, antique furniture and their very own organic garden.

#### **Included Meals:** Breakfast and Lunch

### Check in at Gregans Castle Hotel

2 Nights



## DAY 3

### Property Overview

Welcome to Gregans Castle Hotel. Please take a look around this luxury, eco, and gourmet retreat, nestled in the heart of the beautiful Burren on Ireland's west coast. The house has been welcoming guests since the 1940s and the family have been running it since 1976. The stunning 18th century manor house is set in its own established and lovingly-attended gardens on the Wild Atlantic Way, and has spectacular views that stretch across the Burren hills to Galway Bay.

Inside, you'll find welcoming open fires, candlelight, and striking decoration ranging from modern art, to antique furniture, to pretty garden flowers adorning the rooms. Gregans Castle has long been a source of inspiration for its visitors.

With warm Irish hospitality, stylish accommodation, outstanding service and exceptional fine dining in the award-winning restaurant, they truly are a country house of the 21st century. You can do nothing or everything here. And whatever you choose, you're welcome to join in celebrating all that is wondrous and beautiful in this truly exceptional place.

### Experience & Activities

Gregans Castle Hotel offers diverse experiences in the Burren, a unique landscape in Ireland known for its limestone formations, ancient monuments, and rich wildlife. Guests can explore historic sites, visit the Aran Islands, Cliffs of Moher, and Aillwee Cave, or enjoy traditional music in local villages.

Activities include horse-riding, golf, cycling, sea kayaking, rock climbing, and guided walking tours. Food enthusiasts can enjoy oyster tastings, chocolate tours, and visits to local farms. For relaxation, the hotel provides serene settings, attentive service, and on-site massages.



### DAY 3

Key attractions include the Cliffs of Moher, Aran Islands, and Burren Perfumery & Floral Centre. Guided and self-guided tours are available, ensuring a blend of adventure, relaxation, and cultural immersion.

#### **Fast Facts**

#### **Highlights**

Stunning 18th century manor house

The ultimate luxury and gourmet hideaway

Nestled in the heart of the beautiful Burren

Exceptional fine dining in the award-winning restaurant

Guests have included J.R.R Tolkien, who's said to have been influenced by the Burren when writing The Lord of the Rings, as well as other revered artists and writers such as Seamus Heaney and Sean Scully

#### **Quick facts**

20 rooms & suites

Restaurant

Bar

Lounge

Gardens

Tours

Hiking

Cycling

Massage



### DAY 3

Reflexology  
Horse riding  
Scenic drives  
Wifi



## DAY 4

### The Aran Islands

It's hard to resist the allure of one of the many islands that dot the Irish coastline and today you and your guide will take to the water and ferry to The Aran Islands. The history of these islands goes back millennia and today Gaelic is still the daily spoken language of the inhabitants. The Aran islands seem to defy their size by all they have to offer: breathtaking scenery, mediaeval castles, cliffs and prehistoric forts are all to be found on this little group of islands.

Inis Mór, the largest of the three islands, is your destination today. The first port of call is a goat farm, here Gabriel, fisherman-come-goat farmer and island native will introduce you to his flock of extraordinarily cute goats. You'll taste his award-winning cheese, but more importantly, you will leave with his wealth of knowledge on the island's history, language and culture. We will make sure you don't miss the incredible prehistoric cliff top fortress at Dun Aengus as well as some hidden spots along the island's shore.

### *Site of Historic Interest*

Dun Aengus is the largest of the prehistoric forts on the Aran Islands. Experts believe it was originally constructed between 800BC and 400AD but it is also thought that the stone walls were reinforced in a major remodelling effort in the first millennium AD.

The mighty stone age fort sits on a 300 foot cliff looking over the North Atlantic Ocean.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Overnight at Gregans Castle Hotel**





## DAY 5

### Check out from Gregans Castle Hotel

### Bunratty Castle

Visit the acclaimed 15th iconic Bunratty Castle - the most complete and authentic castle in Ireland.

The site on which Bunratty Castle stands was in origin a Viking trading camp in 970. The present structure is the last of four castles to be built on the site. Take a tour of this iconic fortress; hear and see how the lords and ladies of this castle lived; hear stories of battles and bravery and enjoy stunning views across the idyllic Clare countryside.

Set on 26 acres of unspoilt Clare countryside, Bunratty Folk Park features over 30 buildings in a 'living' village and rural setting.

Rural farmhouses, village shops and streets are recreated and furnished as they would have appeared at that time according to their social standing, from the poorest one roomed dwelling to Bunratty House a fine example of a Georgian residence built 1804 home of the Studdarts, the last family to occupy Bunratty Castle.

Once back on the road, your final destination this afternoon is the Dingle Peninsula. One of three peninsulas in Kerry, Dingle is like an open air museum of historical and cultural sights. With Ireland's second highest peak Mount Brandon dominating the horizon, stretches of pristine beaches, villages, arts and crafts, Dingle is the best of Ireland distilled.



## DAY 5

**Included Meals:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Check in at Pax House**

2 Nights

### **Property Overview**

If there is one place that embodies the serenity and physical beauty of Dingle, it's the luxury of Pax House. Set against an idyllic sea view backdrop, life at Pax House enjoys a pace, rhythm and calmness of its own. The smallest of pampering touches, thoughtful service and stunning art, creating the warmth, cosyness and friendliness of a bed and breakfast but also the professionalism of a boutique hotel. All topped with breathtaking views, described as one of the top ten views in Ireland. The result is a restful retreat full of spacious areas and only minutes from down town Dingle.

Pax Guest House is located on the stunningly beautiful Dingle Peninsula, on the Wild Atlantic Way. A short stroll into Dingle Town, with its renown for being the Foodie capital of Ireland, reveals restaurants for all tastes and pubs playing live music.

### **Fast Facts**

#### **Highlights**

- Sea views
- Guest house with relaxed but luxurious feel
- Delicious breakfast



## DAY 5

### Quick facts

- 14 bedrooms
- Lounge area
- Garden and patio
- Cheese and wine available



## DAY 6

### Exploring the Dingle Peninsula

The Dingle Peninsula or Corca Dhuibhne, stretches 30 miles (48 kilometres) into the Atlantic Ocean on the south-west coast on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way. The peninsula is dominated by the range of mountains that form its spine, running from the Slieve Mish range to the Conor Pass and Mount Brandon, Ireland's second highest peak. The magnificent coastline consists of steep sea-cliffs such as Slea Head, dramatic headlands broken by sandy beaches, with the award-winning beach at Inch in the south and the tombola of Maharees to the north.

There are many options to explore Dingle from a day's hiking along The Dingle Way to a visit to The Blasket Islands. We recommend a morning walk, ending in the tiny village of Annascaul. Its most famous habitant was an adventurer too – Tom Crean was an Antarctic explorer who went to the South Pole with both Scott and Admundsen. Upon returning to Ireland, he decided to open a pub and live out his days in relative quiet.

Visit the Beehive Huts, related to those found on the Skellig Islands and featured in the Star Wars film, The Gallarus Oratory, an early Christian dry stone 'church' and if time allows, The Louis Mulcahy Pottery Studio before returning to Dingle town for a delicious locally sourced dinner.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Overnight at Pax House**



## DAY 7

### Check out from Pax House

### Travel To Dublin

Checking out of your accommodation this morning, it's time to head eastward towards Ireland's capital city. Your guide will drop you at your city centre hotel and then you will say farewell.

### Dublin Walking Tour

Head out to enjoy a walking tour with a local private guide through this vibrant capital city, with its mix of 1,000 years of architecture from the Medieval to Georgian, right through to the modern. See the Georgian style Merrion Square, lush St. Stephen's Green and Fitzwilliam Square, as well as O'Connell Street, the site of the 1916 Uprising that led to Ireland's independence in 1922.

Your guide is a local historian who will bring the city to life with colourful tales of life in the city in times gone by.

Dublin is a city that's as intimate as a village and as friendly as an Irish pub. Framed by mountains, centred on a river and edged by a beautiful bay, the city's streets and alleys are filled with vibrant art and historic buildings, hip cafés and traditional "old man" pubs, as Dubliners call them. Walk the streets and you'll feel the energy of over 1,000 years of history, as echoes of the Vikings mix with buzzing boutiques, cobbled streets reverberate with the sounds of buskers, and 18th century parks play host to festivals, film and food markets.



## DAY 7

**Included Meals:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Check in at The Merrion Hotel**

1 Night

### **Property Overview**

The Merrion, located in the heart of Dublin city centre, is the capital's most luxurious five star hotel, and a proud member of The Leading Hotels of the World. The 142-bedroom and suite hotel is as welcoming as it is stylish. An impeccable restoration of four Georgian townhouses, The Merrion is a marriage of exquisite comfort, relaxed elegance and advanced guest facilities.

The Merrion is home to the 2-star Michelin Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud, The Cellar Bar, The Garden Room, and the intimate No. 23 Cocktail Bar.

### **Experience & Activities**

The Merrion Hotel offers an extensive range of services and facilities including a swimming pool, spa, gym, parking, business services and Merrion bikes for exploring everything that the capital has to offer. The Merrion prides itself on being family-friendly too and aims to make your family's stay in Dublin even more memorable.

This 5 star luxury hotel lies in the heart of Georgian Dublin, opposite Government Buildings and a few minutes' walk from galleries, museums, the I.F.S.C, Dublin Convention Centre, pubs, restaurants and the shops of Grafton Street.



## DAY 7

### Fast Facts

### Highlights

The houses were built in the 1760s by Lord Monck for wealthy Irish merchants and nobility

Enjoy 2 Michelin-star Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud

Six splendid meeting and/or private dining rooms

### Quick facts

123 rooms and 19 suites

Free Wi-Fi

Swimming pool

Luxury spa

Fitness facility

Meeting rooms

Laundry available

24-hour room & concierge service



## DAY 8

### Check out from The Merrion Hotel

#### Transfer to The Airport

- Depart Dublin
- Arrive The Airport

After enjoying a relaxing morning, it is time to leave Dublin. A private transfer will drop you at the airport at your preferred time.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast





## COSTS

Prices start at £8,750 per person based on 2 people traveling together on a private basis.

Pricing is in GBP

Pricing varies depending on your group size, travel dates and any amendments to the itinerary and accommodations.

This tour is an example of what we offer, all tours are tailored to suit your own interests.

### **This cost includes:**

- 7 nights accommodation based on 2 people sharing a room
- Private driver guide from Day 1 to Day 7 inclusive
- Private vehicles from Day 1 to Day 7 inclusive
- Meals as listed in the above itinerary (lunches are a mixture of bagged and cafe)
- All entry fees, activities and hikes mentioned in the itinerary
- All ferry travel throughout this itinerary
- Snacks throughout the trip
- 24/7 in-country support
- Gratuities for local services and experiences

### **This cost does not include:**

- Travel insurance
- Flights
- Any meals not mentioned in the inclusions

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## COSTS

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- Any activities, entry fees and attractions not mentioned in the inclusions
- Gratuities for your main Driver Guide



## GET IN TOUCH

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All of our sample tours are fully customizable and we can also create your perfect itinerary from scratch based on your unique interests.

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