



Mount Stewart House & Garden

# A Grand Tour of the Emerald Isle’s Enchanting Gems

September 13 to 27, 2025 ♦ From \$7,300 per person

Join us on an unforgettable grand tour of magical Ireland, steeped in folklore and sprinkled with mystical castles, atmospheric houses and charming cities. We saunter through breathtaking landscapes and natural wonders, including the Wild Atlantic Way, Achill Island, the Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry and the Giant’s Causeway, all while exploring a host of historic gems and delving into Irish cultural heritage. Fascinating experiences illuminate the fabric of this enchanting little isle; we get a taste of rural life at Glen Keen Farm, journey back in time aboard the Dunbrody Famine Ship, sample a perfect pint of Guinness atop a Dublin rooftop, kiss the iconic Blarney Stone of Eloquence, enjoy the craic at a traditional Celtic show and so much more – *sláinte!*

### What’s Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from Dublin\*
- ♦ 3 nights at the Dylan Hotel
- ♦ 3 nights at the Fitzwilliam Hotel
- ♦ 3 nights at the Delphi Resort Hotel
- ♦ 2 nights at the Muckcross Park Hotel & Spa
- ♦ 1 night at the Baileys Hotel
- ♦ 1 night at the Faithlegg Hotel
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d’hôte* dinner on 10 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea & coffee)
- ♦ 2 dinners at local restaurants
- ♦ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ♦ Travel to & from all excursions
- ♦ All excursion costs
- ♦ Porterage where available

\*Supplement applies for transfers from all other airports and all other locations, including central London.

### Itinerary

**September 13:** Depart your home city and arrive the next day in Dublin

**September 14: Arrival**

On arrival at Dublin Airport, a private transfer will take you to the Dylan Hotel, where we stay overnight. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

*Meals: Dinner*

**September 15: Guided City Tour, Titanic Belfast & Hillsborough Castle**

This morning we cross the border into Northern Ireland and head to the vibrant capital of Belfast where we enjoy a guided city tour. Afterward, we visit Titanic Belfast, a fantastic interactive exhibition located on the site of the original shipyard where the famous liner was built. We are then treated to a private evening guided tour of Hillsborough Castle, a beautiful late Georgian mansion created in the 1770s by Wills Hill, the first Marquis of Downshire. Later we check into the Fitzwilliam Hotel, our base for the

## An unforgettable grand tour of magical Ireland.

next three nights, and enjoy dinner at the Cloth Ear, nestled in the oldest quarter of Belfast.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**September 16: Castle Ward, Strangford Lough & Mount Stewart House & Garden**

We head to Castle Ward, an eccentric 18<sup>th</sup>-century house that features a curious mixture of architectural styles, including classical Palladian and elaborate Gothic. Set in 820 picturesque acres of demesne with superb views over Strangford Lough, the estate also has a stable yard that houses a tea room and second-hand bookshop.

To get to our next stop, we take the picturesque Strangford Lough ferry before continuing to the magnificent Mount Stewart House and Garden, located on the shores of the lough. This recently restored and much-loved family home offers a wealth of treasures, which we discover on our intriguing guided tour.

This evening, we sample a delicious Irish stew at the traditional Crown Liquor Saloon in Belfast, one of North Ireland’s best-known pubs.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**September 17: North Coast Scenic Drive, Dunluce Castle, Mussenden Temple & the Giant’s Causeway**

Today we head out on a scenic drive along the north coast, known as the Causeway Coastal Route. Dunluce Castle is our first stop, a ruined medieval fortress which sits atop a striking basalt outcrop.

Next is the Italian-inspired Mussenden Temple, built in 1785 as a summer library and precariously poised above the Atlantic. Make sure your camera is on hand, as it’s now one of the most photographed spots in the country.

We meander along to the Giant’s Causeway, so-named for the enormous basalt columns produced by volcanic eruptions some sixty million years ago, and now a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.

*Meals: Breakfast*

**September 18: Castle Coole & Florence Court**

After checking out of our hotel, we make our way to Castle Coole, one of Ireland’s first Neo-classical houses where the grandeur of its sumptuous Regency interior is matched by the stunning wooded landscape park.

We continue to 18<sup>th</sup>-century Florence Court, an idyllic Irish mansion featuring exquisite Rococo decoration and fine furniture, surrounded by lush parkland, peaceful woodland, stunning gardens and an apple orchard.

Later, we check into the Delphi Hotel in Galway, where we stay for the next three nights.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*



Giant’s Causeway

**September 19: Achill Island**

Today we enjoy a scenic drive around the enchanting Achill Island, the largest of Ireland’s offshore isles. The island’s striking natural beauty and rugged landscapes has it all; spectacular mountains, remote lakes, soaring cliffs and secluded beaches.

The rest of the day is left free to relax at the hotel or to perhaps enjoy a treatment at the luxurious spa.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**September 20: Glen Keen Farm & Kylemore Abbey**

This morning we get an authentic taste of rural life with a visit to Glen Keen Sheep Farm, one of Ireland’s largest sheep farms located on the Wild Atlantic Way and with a spectacular backdrop of picture-perfect mountains. Here we enjoy a sheep herding and wood spinning demonstrations plus delicious homemade Irish scones.

We take a drive past the stunning Killary Fjord en-route to our next destination, Kylemore Abbey, where we can wander through the restored rooms of the beautiful Gothic Abbey, home to a monastic community of nuns since 1920.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**September 21: Quiet Man Museum, Dungaire Castle & Cliffs of Moher**

We head to The Quiet Man Museum after checking out of our hotel this morning. Perfect for fans of the classic 1952 American film, the museum is an exact replica of White O’Morn cottage from the movie. We find out more during our introductory talk.

The next stop is Dungaire Castle, an atmospheric 16<sup>th</sup>-century town house nestled on the shores of Galway Bay. We continue to the magnificent Cliffs of Moher, stretching for eight miles along County Clare’s Atlantic Coast and 214m at their highest.

Later, we check into the Muckcross Park Hotel & Spa in Killarney, our base for the next two nights.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**September 22: Ross Castle, Jaunting Car & the Ring of Kerry**

Located on the shores of Lough Leane, Ross Castle is a 15<sup>th</sup>-century tower house built by Irish chieftain O’Donoghue Mór (who still slumbers under the gentle waters according to local legend)! Here we enjoy a jaunting car ride, which are horse-drawn carts operated by the local *jarvies*, as well as a tranquil boat trip on the lake.

We then take a scenic drive through the Ring of Kerry, journeying across an untouched landscape of peaceful lakes and a skyline of dozing mountainous peaks.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**September 23: Blarney Castle & Rock of Cashel**

The medieval Blarney Castle awaits, built nearly 600 years ago by a powerful Irish magnate and now one of the country’s most famous attractions.

The iconic sites continue with a trip to the Rock of Cashel, one of Ireland’s top archaeological spots, set on a rocky outcrop. The prominent hill is dotted with a range of ancient fortifications, including a storied 12<sup>th</sup>-century round tower, 13<sup>th</sup>-century Gothic cathedral and 15<sup>th</sup>-century castle.

This afternoon we check into the Baileys Hotel in Tipperary, where we stay overnight.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**September 24: Kennedy Homestead & Dunbrody Famine Ship**

Our first stop is Dunganstown, the birthplace of John F. Kennedy’s great-grandfather, Patrick Kennedy.

Next, Ireland’s history is brought to life at the Dunbrody Famine Ship. We learn about the bravery of Irish people onboard an authentic replica of an 1840s emigrant boat, complete with costumed performers, insightful displays and details of their harrowing journey.

This evening we stay overnight at the Faithlegg Hotel in Waterford.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

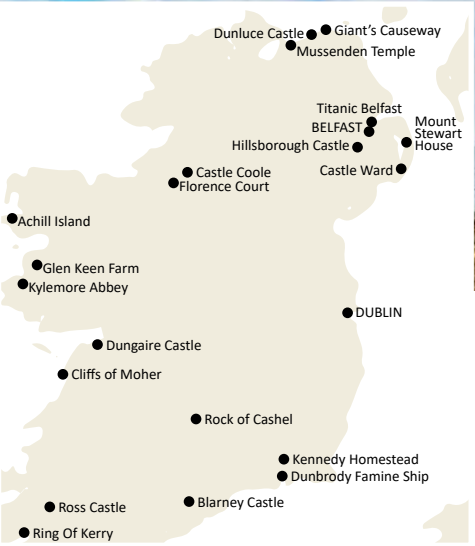
**September 25: Abbey Theatre & Guinness Storehouse**

Today we take a backstage tour of the Abbey Theatre, also known as the National Theatre of Ireland, where Irish creativity is celebrated.

We continue our dive into Irish heritage with a visit to Guinness Storehouse, to uncover the history of the world-famous drink through a seven-storey interactive experience.

Later, we check back into the Dylan Hotel in Dublin, where we stay for the remaining two nights of our tour. There’s time to freshen up before we are treated to dinner at Celtic Nights, a traditional Irish Dance show known for its great *craic!*

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*



**September 26: Trinity College, Book of Kells & The Old Library**

We start the day with a guided tour of Trinity College, Ireland’s oldest university, founded in 1592. The college’s magnificent Old Library displays Ireland’s greatest cultural treasure, the Book of Kells.

There is then some free time in Dublin, with its historic attractions, shopping streets, abundance of convivial pubs and fascinating landmarks, from the ancient Dublin Castle to the modern Spire of Dublin. This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**September 27: Departure**

A private transfer will take you back to Dublin Airport for your return flight home.

*Meals: Breakfast*

**Please note:** the order of excursions is subject to change and guided tours are subject to restrictions.

### Tour Highlights

- ♦ Guided city tour of Belfast
- ♦ Private evening tour of Hillsborough Castle
- ♦ Boat trip on Strangford Lough
- ♦ Guided tour of Mount Stewart House & Garden
- ♦ Scenic drive along the North Coast
- ♦ Guided tour of Achill Island
- ♦ Sheep dog & wood spinning demonstrations plus Irish scones at Glen Keen Farm
- ♦ Introductory talk at the Quiet Man Museum
- ♦ Jaunting car (horse & carriage) ride & cruise at Ross Castle
- ♦ Backstage tour at the Abbey Theatre
- ♦ Ticket to Celtic Nights Dinner & Show
- ♦ Guided tour of Trinity College & The Old Library