



IRELAND GOLF TOUR AUGUST 2016

Tue 16: ARRIVE KILLARNEY

Upon your flight arrival at Shannon International Airport (near Limerick) you proceed through customs and immigration before being met by your Tour Manager/Driver who will assist you with your luggage and show you to your waiting luxury motor coach. You will then transfer to **Killarney**, which is approximately a two hour drive.

Killarney – Offers so much to visitors with plenty to see and do all year round. It sprang into prominence when 18th century tourists were drawn to the wonderful setting beside its scenic lakes and by being under the shadow of Ireland's highest mountains.

Accommodation: The Royal Hotel – Deluxe Rooms (4 nights)



The Royal Hotel is a family owned hotel situated 2 minutes walk from the town centre. From the moment you arrive at the Killarney Royal Hotel you will appreciate being somewhere rather special. The Royal is proud of its reputation as one of the finest hotels in Killarney. Each room has been individually designed to meet your needs and you will find that your bedroom is appointed to the very highest international standard with a marble bathroom and sitting area.

This evening you will enjoy a **Welcome Cocktail Party & Dinner** at a local Restaurant.

Wed 17: KILLARNEY

Today, following breakfast, you will travel to **Waterville Golf Links** for your first round of golf.



Make no mistake about it; Waterville Golf Links in Kerry is one of the finest links golf courses in the world, never mind Ireland. Located on the Ring of Kerry, the surrounding scenery and quality of golf holes is breathtaking to say the least. The front nine holes, which were designed to contrast with the more rugged and exposed closing stretch, begin with the chillingly named "Last Easy", a fairly ironic name given the fact that it's not really that simple. Each hole at Waterville is a wonderful experience, with the 2nd and 3rd holes, both par fours, being particularly impressive. And while the par three, 17th is probably Waterville's feature hole, most would agree with Gary Player when he described the 11th as "the most beautiful and satisfying par five of them all". Running 500 yards through a narrow passage of huge dunes, this hole fully deserves its name "Tranquility".

Waterville Golf Links is located around the scenic loop known as the Ring of Kerry and so before and after golf you will explore this beautiful area. The Ring of Kerry is a circular tourist trail that starts in Killarney and moves around the Iveragh Peninsula. Along the way visitors can stop at many tourist sites including the Muckross House, Ross Castle, Ladies View, and others. For those looking for more outdoor adventure there is a walking path called The Kerry Way, which covers the Ring of Kerry using older and quieter roads.

The drive from Killarney to Waterville is approximately one hour and ten minutes.



Thu 18: KILLARNEY

Today you will explore the **Dingle Peninsula**, the western most point in Ireland. Dingle is also a loop much like the Ring of Kerry but much smaller. The town of Dingle is the perfect little Irish burg - alive with traditional music, pubs, and an active fishing harbour. Dingle feels traditionally Irish because in part the Irish government subsidizes the survival of the Irish language and culture here. While English is widely spoken, the signs, chitchat and songs are always in Gaelic.

Fri 19: KILLARNEY

Golf today is at Ireland's most famous course - **Ballybunion Old Course**. It is a 90 minute drive and non-golfers might like to accompany golfers to explore the town of Ballybunion and its associated beautiful beaches and cliff formations.



After playing Ballybunion for the first time, you would think that the game of golf originated there. Located on the Shannon estuary, it is a true seaside links course, virtually treeless and a course of sharp contours throughout. It looks like a course laid out on land back in the 10th century. While there would appear to be a lot of blind shots, there aren't. It is a course that will test your patience. It is not a course that favors one particular style of play over another, but one that simply rewards good play and good shots. It is a true test of golf.

Sat 20: KILLARNEY to CORK

After breakfast this morning you will leave Killarney for Cork.

On the way to Cork you will have the chance to visit the **Old Midelton Distillery** which is the home of the world class Irish whiskies; Jameson, Paddy, and Powers. The distillery was founded in the early 19th century by the Murphy brothers and has been in production for over 150 years. Visitors are welcome to take a tour through the distillery which starts with an informative audio-visual presentation. The tour is then guided by a knowledgeable guide who relates the history of the distillery and ends in a tasting of its fine product.

Cork City is Ireland's third city (after Dublin and Belfast) and has always been an important seaport. It began on an island in the swampy estuary of the River Lee (the name Corcaigh means a marsh), and gradually climbed up the steep banks on either side. Today the river flows through Cork city in two main channels, so that you find yourself constantly crossing bridges and hence Cork City's coat of arms bears the motto 'A Safe Harbour for Ships'.



Accommodation: Hayfield Manor Hotel – Manor Rooms (2 nights)



Wonderfully tranquil and restful, Hayfield Manor Hotel Cork stands in two acres of mature gardens close to the city centre. The ultimate urban retreat, the hotel has a gourmet restaurant, a bistro and a six-treatment room spa. Set at the end of a tree-lined path, the hotel is as pretty as a picture with the look and feel of a period country house. Rooms and suites are well proportioned, decorated in tasteful muted colours with beautiful antique furnishings and exquisite fabrics. Sink into a comfy leather chesterfield in the library, next to a roaring fire or opt for an indulgent afternoon tea in the bright and airy drawing room.

A ten-minute stroll takes you into the vibrant centre of Cork with its smart boutiques and lively arts and music culture. There are two highly reputable golf courses close to Hayfield Manor Hotel or try a spot of river or sea fishing

Sun 21: CORK

Golf today is at the renowned **Old Head, Kinsale**.



Old Head Golf Links is built on a 220-acre diamond of land, jutting out over two miles into the Atlantic Ocean. The promontory is almost an island with numerous caves running beneath your feet as you play the course. The links and practice area occupy 180 acres and the remaining 40 acres of unspoilt cliff (rising in places to over 300 feet) frame the course. Old Head, par 72, comprises five Par 5s, five Par 3s and eight Par 4s – stretching to over 7,200 yards from the tips, with a minimum of six tees per hole. Nine holes play along the cliff tops, and all eighteen holes provide stunning ocean views. With the ever-changing sea breezes, the course provides a stern test to the touring pro and the high handicapper alike.

Non golfers will visit **Kinsale**.



Town of Kinsale is famously known as the home of Old Head the Golf Club. Beyond that, however, the town is a popular holiday resort. The town is known for its numerous gourmet restaurants and many leisure activities, such as: yachting, sea angling, golf, and shopping. There are many small locally owned shops within the town that thrive from the influx of tourists each summer.

Mon 22: CORK to DUBLIN

This morning you will depart Cork and head to Dublin on a scenic 3 hour drive through horse country, stopping in **Cashel** on route. Upon arrival in Dublin you will check in to your hotel.

Dublin – Ireland's capital is divided by the River Liffey and was originally settled by the Vikings. Today it rightly prides itself on being a modern European city, but its colourful history is central to its appeal. It has fast become one of Europe's most vibrant and cosmopolitan cities - always having a reputation as a great historical centre, it has strong links with world literature as well as the arts being readily apparent.

Accommodation: The Morgan Hotel – De Luxe Rooms (4 nights)



The Morgan Hotel is located in Temple Bar. This 4 star hotel offers an oasis of calm in a central location. The hotel's cool modern interiors, chic design and boutique luxury rooms are all part of an experience designed to pamper guests and breathe new life and style into hotel living. This Dublin city centre hotel is just a few blocks away from Trinity College, Grafton Street - the main shopping thoroughfare, theatres, music and nightlife along with proximity to the IFSC, Dublin's main business district.

Tue 23: DUBLIN

Today after breakfast you travel north for golf at **Royal County Down**.



Currently listed as the **No.1 Best Course** in the World by Golf Digest, Royal County Down rightfully takes its place among the other legendary courses of the world. It is situated alongside the Mountains of Mourne and the Town of Newcastle and is one of golf's most inspiring settings. The challenges provided by its golf holes are no less spectacular. It is essentially "big" golf with demanding carries and a premium place on precise iron shots. The abundance of gorse and heather, though quite beautiful, severely penalizes any wayward golf shot.

After golf we will all visit **Giants Causeway**.

The coastal scenery adjacent to the causeway is some of the most beautiful and awe inspiring that you are likely to find anywhere. The majestic cliffs and inaccessible bays combine with myth and legend to inspire, but look carefully amongst this breathtaking landscape and you will find echoes of another reality, isolated ruins, kelp walls and shoreline fields bear testament to the harder life of subsistence farming and fishing endured by past generations. Dotted around the coast you'll find small sheltered harbours and slipways, fishermen's cottages and rock formations that you will never forget. Many ships have foundered below these towering cliffs but none as tragic as that of the Girona, a galleass of the Spanish Armada. Carrying the crews from two previous Armada shipwrecks, the Girona was trying to reach the relative safety of Scotland. As she rounded Inishowen Peninsula, heavily over laden and in deteriorating sea conditions, her rudder failed. In the teeth of a full blown north-westerly gale, the crew battled to keep her off the coast but she finally struck Lacada Point in view of the Giants Causeway at midnight on October 30th 1588 with the loss of over twelve hundred men. Only five are believed to have survived. Local folklore tells of descendants living here and that victims of the wreck, maybe Spanish nobility, were buried in St. Cuthbert's graveyard near Dunluce Castle, it is known that cannons from the wreck were placed here.

Wed 24: DUBLIN

Today you will have a relaxing tour of the city. A **City Tour of Dublin** is one of the most enjoyable ways for visitors to catch all the sights of this entertaining and exciting city. The local guide will provide educational and entertaining information on the major places of interest.



You will also visit the **Guinness Storehouse**, which is the number one must see in Dublin. For many, Guinness is the very heart of Ireland itself, and the opportunity to tour the factory is not to be passed by. The storehouse educates visitors on everything there is to know about the beer that began 250 years ago. The tour ends with a complimentary pint of the world's most famous beer, and is well worth the time.

Thu 25: DUBLIN

Today you will enjoy your final round of Irish golf when you travel the short 25 minute journey to visit **Portmarnock Golf Club**.



Portmarnock Golf Club is universally acknowledged as one of the world's truly great links courses. Located on a small peninsula, which extends into the Irish Sea, Portmarnock is surrounded by water on three sides and laid out in serpentine fashion, with no two successive holes playing in the same direction. The quality and location of Portmarnock have made it a superb venue for some great events over the years. The British Amateur in 1949, the Canada Cup in 1960, the 1991 Walker Cup and some 12 Irish Open Championships have been held on its hallowed turf. The championship course offers a fair but tough challenge and was acknowledged by Tom Watson in 1981: "There are no tricks or nasty surprises, only an honest, albeit searching test of shot making skills." Invariably rated as one of Ireland's top three courses.

A bonus today is when you will be provided with lunch in the Portmarnock Clubhouse dining room – no golf shoes allowed!

This evening you will enjoy a **Farewell Cocktail Party & Dinner** at a local Dublin restaurant.

Fri 26: DEPART DUBLIN

Today after breakfast you will be transferred to the Dublin Airport to commence your flight home.



PRICE

Golfer: \$US5,995 per person, double occupancy

Non-Golfer: \$US4,440 per person, double occupancy

Single Supplement: US\$1,350

Note – Price is based on a minimum of 10 paying passengers travelling.

INCLUSIONS

- Meet and greet service on arrival at Shannon airport by local staff.
- All bag handling at airports and hotels.
- 10 nights' accommodation, double or single occupancy, at hotels indicated.
- Full breakfast each day.
- All transportation by motor coach.
- Starting times and green fees for one round at each of the following courses: Waterville, Ballybunion, Old Head, Royal County Down, and Portmarnock.
- Full use of all golf clubhouses including access to the changing rooms, showers, lockers, dining room and bar.
- Sightseeing as indicated in the itinerary.
- Welcome & Farewell Cocktail Parties and Dinner.
- All local taxes and service charges on all services included in the attached itinerary.
- Golf luggage tags
- Personalized travel pack with useful information, maps, helpful hints, recommended restaurants, pubs, shopping and sightseeing options.
- Services of a Golf Tour Manager plus a driver throughout. Your experienced tour manager will accompany you for the duration of your tour and will be on hand to assist with all aspects of your tour. While your driver will make sure you reach the destinations on time, your tour manager will assist with check-in and luggage at the hotels making the process as seamless as possible. At the golf courses, the driver will handle your golf equipment while your tour manager checks you in and assembles the caddies you may have requested. He will also be an asset when recommending and making dinner reservations at local restaurants, shopping or sightseeing recommendations.

Not Included

- No international air content is included.
- Caddie or cart fees
The use of caddies is highly recommended (where available); as electric carts are very limited on the courses you will play and usually require a letter from a doctor. Should you desire caddies, please request them at the time of booking. When caddies are used, you are responsible for paying their charges directly. Cost is approximately £40 (\$65) per caddie plus tip (approximately £10 - \$15).
- Gratuities.
- Meals which are not specified.



Australia New Zealand Golf

