

Enchanted Ireland Tours.



Tiernabouli, Killarney, Co, Kerry, Ireland.

Tel: International + 353 64 6671112. Fax: International + 353 64 6671112.

E – mail: eit@eircom.net. Website www.enchantedireland.com



SAMPLE RELIGIOUS TOUR.

Day 1. Arrive Dublin – City Tour – St Patrick’s Cathedral – Book of Kells. Following early morning arrival at Dublin Airport, you will be met by your Driver/Guide and escorted to your awaiting motorcoach.



On leaving the airport you will be taken on a tour of Dublin - Ireland’s capital city on the banks of the River Liffey. You will see The **Georgian Squares** with their 18th Century houses, the **Phoenix Park** (biggest town park in Europe), statue filled O’Connell Street and the fashionable Grafton Street. You will also visit **St. Patrick’s Cathedral**, which stands adjacent to the famous well where **Saint Patrick** baptized converts on his visit to Dublin. The present building dates from **1220** and is the **National Cathedral for the Church of Ireland**. Your next stop is **Trinity College**.



Here you will visit the Old Library to view a 9th century Latin manuscript of the four Gospels written on vellum (prepared calfskin), known as the **Book of Kells**. This afternoon you will check into your hotel for a well earned rest. **Overnight: Dublin.**

Day 2. Boyne Valley. This morning your tour takes you to The Boyne Valley, one of the most historic parts of Ireland. Your first visit this morning will be to



Monasterboice. The Monastery was founded here by Saint Buite in the **5th century** and contains two of the finest High Crosses in Ireland, both of which date to around the 9th century. Your next stop is **Mellifont Abbey** founded in 1142 and was the first Cistercian house in Ireland. You continue to **Newgrange** a passage tomb dating back to about **3,200 B.C** making it older than the Great

Pyramids of Egypt. Newgrange is also a recognized place of astrological, spiritual, religious and ceremonial importance.

You continue to Drogheda where you will have some free time for lunch and also an opportunity to visit **St Peter’s Church**, which preserves the relics of Blessed Oliver Plunkett. From here, you return to Dublin. **Overnight: Dublin.**



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Day 3. Glendalough – Church of St Canice. This morning you depart Dublin and travel south to **County**



Wicklow known as “**The Garden of Ireland**”. Your first stop is **Glendalough** (Valley of Two Lakes) where you go back in time to the 7th century with a guided tour of this remarkable early monastic settlement. From here, you continue over the **Wicklow Gap** to Hollywood and from here to **Kilkenny City** on



the banks of the river Nore. This afternoon you will visit the cathedral of **Saint Canice**. The **13th century** Cathedral is the second longest cathedral in Ireland and has been a site of Christian worship since the **6th century**.

Overnight: Kilkenny.

Day 4. Holy Cross Abbey – Rock of Cashel. This morning you depart Kilkenny and travel to the historic

Holy Cross Abbey. Founded in 1180 by the King of Munster Donal O'Brien as a shrine for a **relic of the true cross** given to his father by Pope Paschal 11. The abbey was transferred to the Cistercians about 1182. A **particle of the true cross was enshrined in the abbey** and Holy Cross became one of the most frequented places of pilgrimage in Ireland. You continue to the town of **Cashel** where you will have a guided tour of the

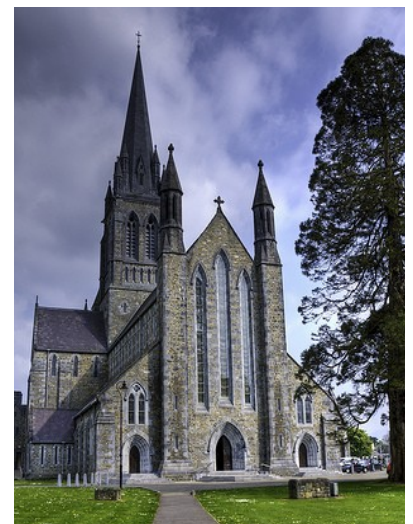


amazing **Rock of Cashel**. This was the seat of the Kings of Munster from 370 – 1101 and a famous ecclesiastical center. It also has early associations with **St. Patrick**. This group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone includes a **12th century round tower, a 13th century Gothic cathedral, a 15th century High Cross and Romanesque Chapel**. From here, you continue through the beautiful

golden vale and the rolling hills of county Cork to **Killarney**. **Overnight: Killarney.**

Day 5. Innisfallen Abbey – St Mary’s Cathedral. This morning you will

take a short boat trip on the picturesque **Lakes of Killarney** from Ross Castle to the Island of Innisfallen. Here you will see the ruins of **Innisfallen Abbey**, founded around the year 600 by Saint Faithlean, (fallen) the leper. The abbey is famous for The **Annals of Innisfallen**, a chronicle of world and Irish history in Irish and Latin compiled on the island and now housed in the **Bodleian Library in Oxford**. The Island became a great centre of learning and in the 10C King Brian Boru was educated here. On returning to the mainland you will travel on a traditional Irish jaunting car through the **Killarney National Park** to **St Mary’s Cathedral**. Building commenced in 1842 but was suspended for 5 years during the great famine when the partially roofed section was used as a place of shelter. A single tree on the grounds of the Cathedral marks a famine grave. The remainder of the afternoon is free to check out some of the many shops, pubs and restaurants in the picturesque town of Killarney. **Overnight: Killarney.**



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Day 6. Dingle Peninsula. Today you will enjoy the unspoiled beauty of The **Dingle Peninsula**. Once cited as 'the most beautiful place on earth' by the **National Geographic**. You will travel back in time as you see some **beehive huts** (early monastic settlements) dating back over a thousand years and the **8c Gallarus Oratory**. Your tour will take you to the most westerly point of Ireland with spectacular coastal views and the **The Blasket Islands**. You will also visit the ruined church at **Kilmalkeadar** with many monuments dating back to both early Christian and medieval times. You will see an **ogham stone, alphabet stone, stone cross** and a beautiful **sun-dial**. The Romanesque church is the focal feature of the complex, with one of the finest doorways in that style in Ireland, You will also see some of the locations for such films as “**Ryan’s Daughter**” and the more recently filmed “**Far and Away**” which starred Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. You will have some free time in Dingle town before continuing to Tarbert where you will take a short ferry crossing across the Shannon Estuary to Killimer and from there you continue to Ennis. **Overnight: Ennis.**



Day 7. Cliffs of Moher – The Burren – Kilfenora Cathedral – Poul nabrone Dolmen. This morning you travel to Lahinch and continue the coast road to **St Brigid’s holy well**. From here you travel to the majestic **Cliffs of Moher** which rise to a height of **600 ft over the Atlantic Ocean**. Your tour continues through the lunar type landscape of the **Burren**. This unique part of Ireland is made up of 100 square mile of limestone rock. You will visit the ruins of **Kilfenora Cathedral and High Crosses**. The Cathedral in Kilfenora was built in the 12c and dedicated to St. Fachtna, who founded his monastery here during the sixth century. Your next visit is the **Poul nabrone Dolmen**. A Dolmen is a megalithic tomb formed by three or more upright stones covered by a cap stone. The Poul nabrone Dolmen dates back to **2500BC**. It was excavated in 1968 and found to contain the remains of between 16 and 22 adults and 6 juveniles including a newborn baby. From here you continue the coast road to Galway City. **Overnight: Galway.**



Day 8. Connemara – Westport. This morning before departing Galway you will visit Galway Cathedral, built between 1958 and 1965. Your tour continues to **Connemara** which is made up of mountains, lakelands and boglands. Because of its wild and rugged beauty it has been the location for many films. “**The Quiet Man**” with John Wayne and Maureen O Hara and in more recent times “**The Field**” starring Richard Harris to name but two. You continue to **Doolough** and travel a stretch of road known as the **famine walk**. Hundreds of people take part in the walk every year during the month of May following in the footsteps of the many people who left their home in search of food during the great famine. You travel by the foothills of **Croagh Patrick, Ireland’s holy mountain**. All through the year people come to climb Croagh Patrick also known



as the Reek. On **Reek Sunday**, the last Sunday in July, over 25,000 pilgrims climb the Reek some barefoot as an act of **penance**. **Overnight: Westport.**

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Day 9. Ballintubber Abbey - Knock Shrine – Bunratty. This morning you will visit **Ballintubber Abbey**,



known as the Abbey that refused to die. The Abbey was **founded in 1216** and mass has been celebrated in the abbey without a break ever since. For 236 years people attended Mass in the unroofed abbey exposed to the cold, wind and the rain. From here, you travel to **Knock**. It was here on the 21st



August 1879 **Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist** appeared

to 15 people ranging in age from 12 to 75. Knock is now an internationally recognized **Marian Shrine**.

Pope John Paul II visited in 1979, commemorating the centenary of the apparition and **Mother Teresa** of Calcutta visited the Shrine in June of 1993. One and a half million pilgrims visit the Shrine annually. From here, you continue to Bunratty. **Overnight: Bunratty.**

Day 10. Bunratty – Shannon Airport. Today you sadly bid farewell to the Emerald Isle. You travel to Shannon Airport (20 mins). Here you will have ample time for duty free shopping before you board your flight home.