



# IRELAND FAMILY JOURNEY: CASTLES, FOLKLORE & GAELIC TRADITIONS

9 days, Dublin to Limerick

Trip code EQDNF

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group
- Your Family Journeys Moment: Treasure Hunt Dublin, Dublin
- Your Family Journeys Moment: Sheepdog Farm Visit & Herding Demonstration, Killarney
- Arrival Transfer
- Gaelic Games activity
- Irish dance lesson
- Sheep dog farm visit
- Dublin scavenger hunt
- Spike Island
- Rock of Cashel
- Bunratty Castle Visit and Aran Islands
- Blarney Castle visit
- Ring of Kerry day excursion
- Cliffs of Moher walk and visitors' center stop
- Free time in Dublin and Cork
- Departure Transfer
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing July 21st, 2023 and onwards

# ITINERARY

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## Itinerary Notes

Prices are based on double occupancy; all other room configurations are on request and cannot be guaranteed. We will accommodate triples/quads whenever possible. Please call for further details. Family Journeys are designed for groups traveling with children between the ages of 7 and 17. Your group must include a child in order to book, and anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## DUBLIN

Welcome to Dublin—your arrival transfer to the hotel is included. Check in and get excited to meet your fellow travelers during a welcome meeting this evening where all families can bond before the Journey ahead.

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### ACCOMMODATION

Staycity Tivoli Dublin (or similar) **Hotel**

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### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

#### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2

## DUBLIN

Your day begins with a treasure history hunt through Dublin with the whole family! The entire city center is your playing field: clues on your phone will guide you to various locations, where you'll crack encrypted codes, solve logic tasks and search for evidence that will lead your team to the treasure as you learn about this historic city. After finding the treasure, you'll have the remainder of the afternoon to explore more of Ireland's vibrant capital. You can visit Trinity College Dublin, founded in 1592 and view the Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript dating back to the 9th century. From the Dublinia and Butler's Chocolate Experience to the city's medieval Quarter and Saint Patrick's Cathedral, there's fun for the entire family. Dinner this evening will be on your own.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

Staycity Tivoli Dublin (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Free Time Dublin

Spend the afternoon exploring the vibrant capital of Ireland on your own. Opt to visit Trinity College Dublin and its centuries-old academic atmosphere. Perhaps view the Book of Kells, partake in Butler's Chocolate Experience, or visit Saint Patrick's Cathedral. From wandering through the city's medieval Quarter to sample fish n' chips in a cozy local pub, there's plenty to see and do in Dublin.

ACTIVITY 5km

Combine a scavenger hunt in Dublin with a thrilling mystery story for the entire family! The premise? A local art collector has acquired a medieval document at an auction and the manuscript has all of these mysterious sequences of letters that make little sense. You and your team of treasure hunters must find the priceless artifact being referenced in the manuscript. After the group briefing, the roles will be distributed for each team. Are you a born tracker? A true adventurer? Or an expert code-breaker? Once roles are assigned the hunt begins. At various locations throughout the city your team will solve encrypted codes, conquer tricky logic tasks, and search for evidence in locating the treasure. As you go, you will learn fascinating stories and facts about the history of Dublin.



## Optional Activities - Day 2

Dublinia

Dublin

15EUR

Travel back to the heart of the old city at Christchurch. Walk where Vikings once left their own footprints and step into Medieval Viking Dublin.

Butler's Chocolate Experience

Dublin

17EUR

Visit the magic and wonder of a real life chocolate factory during the Butlers Chocolate Experience.

Visit to Trinity College (Book of Kells)

Dublin

Step into the halls of Trinity College Dublin, founded in 1592, to visit the Book of Kells Exhibition and the historic Long Library. Written in the 9th century, the Book of Kells is a richly illustrated document (inscribed in Latin) of the four Gospels in the New Testament. Widely considered Ireland's greatest cultural treasure, it's one of the world's most famous medieval manuscripts. Continue to the Long Library, a soaring room filled with over 200,000 books, including the library's oldest collections. A must-visit for book lovers, it's also known for its appearance in Harry Potter movies.

Day 3

## DUBLIN/CORK

In the morning, travel to the charming city of Cork. Along the way, you'll stop at spectacular sites, including the Rock of Cashel—the ruins of a castle set on a dramatic outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale. This iconic site is renowned for its impressive cluster of medieval buildings and includes a Gothic cathedral, a 15th-century tower house, an abbey and a high cross. Transfer to Cobh and enjoy lunch with the whole group before boarding the ferry to Spike Island. Take a guided tour with a storyteller and learn about the island's monastic, military, penal and cultural history. Explore the fort's atmospheric prison cells, impressive military fortifications and internal passages. There will also be time to walk along the area's nature trails before boarding the ferry back to Cobh. Transfer to Cork, where you'll spend the evening exploring at your leisure.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

The Kingsley Hotel (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle

Cobh - Cork

30m

23km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ferry

Cobh - Spike Island

15m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Rock of Cashel Visit

Rock of Cashel

1h

A visit to the Rock of Cashel is a journey through 1,500 years of Irish history. From the pre-Christian legends of the Devil's Bite to the Gothic grandeur of the cathedral ruins, it offers a visceral connection to Ireland's royal and ecclesiastical past. The combination of the Cormac's Chapel frescoes and the panoramic views over the Golden Vale makes it an essential stop in Ireland's Ancient East.

Private Vehicle

Cashel - Cobh

1h30m

105km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Private Vehicle

Dublin - Cashel

2h30m

170km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ferry

Spike Island – Cobh

15m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Spike Island Visit

Spike Island

2h15m

Experience a trip through 1300 years of Irish history on a trip to Spike Island off the coast of Cork. Learn about the island's history and experience beautiful nature in a wild Irish setting. The island's unique and Irish history has included monks, monasteries, rioters and redcoats, captains, convicts, sinners, and saints. The island today holds the 200 year old Fort Mitchel, a star shaped Fortress that became a prison with over 2300 prisoners—there has never been a larger prison in Ireland or Britain before or since—a monastery, and modern museum spaces. Enjoy a guided tour of the island with a storyteller. Learn about the island's monastic, military, penal, and social past. There will be Included free time to explore the fort's atmospheric prison cells, impressive military fortifications, and internal passages on your own. There's also time to wander the nature and walking trails in the area. You can choose between the 20-minute 'Glacis Walk' around the fortress with stunning harbor views, or the 'Ring of Spike' walking trail, a 45-minute walk to see the abandoned buildings with spectacular views along the coastline.

Day 4

## CORK

After breakfast, transfer from the hotel to Na Piarsaigh GAA Club, where you'll experience traditional Irish sports with a hands-on Gaelic Games family activity. First, attend an engaging cultural introduction by expert coaches, then head outside to take part in 3 sports—Gaelic football, hurling and handball, where you'll enjoy some friendly competition as you learn what it was like to play these historic sports. After lunch, spend the afternoon on your own exploring Cork, where you can opt to visit Fitzgerald Park or attend the bustling English Market, which has been trading since 1788. Dinner will be on your own, so be on the lookout for local restaurants with ingredients sourced from the English Market.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

The Kingsley Hotel (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Free Time Cork

Spend a free afternoon getting to know Cork as a family. There's lots to see and do in this Irish city, so get out and explore! Opt to walk through Fitzgerald Park, visit The English Market which has been trading since 1788 making it one of the oldest covered markets in all of Europe.

Gaelic Games Family Experience Cork 3h

Enjoy cultural immersion during an out of the ordinary activity during: A Gaelic Games Family Experience. The visit combines a mixture of culture, history, tradition, and sport for an authentic Irish Game Day. Start by meeting the locals during a welcome into the heart of the local Gaelic Club. Hear stories of ancient myths and legends from expert coaches during the cultural introduction. Then, learn the ancient arts of three different sports, Hurling, Gaelic Football, and Gaelic Handball. Take part in team building activities and enjoy a day of friendly competition as a family.



### Optional Activities - Day 4

English Market **Cork** **Free** 1h-2h

Established in 1788, the English Market in Cork is a vast and eclectic covered food market filled with longstanding family-run stalls. Get in with the local hustle and bustle.

Cork County Gaol **Cork** **10EUR**

Once a prison constructed in the 1820s, the Cork County Gaol is now a coveted part of University College of Cork. Take an audio tour of the grounds to learn more about the tumultuous history of this building.

Fitzgerald Park **Cork** **Free** 1h-2h

Take a break from the city bustle and take a stroll through this tranquil park.

Day 5

## CORK/KILLARNEY

Begin the day with a visit to Blarney Castle as you make your way from Cork to Killarney. Built nearly 600 years ago, the Blarney Castle is one of the most iconic sights in Ireland. During your visit, wander a network of paths that will lead you through various gardens, arboretums and avenues on the grounds. Enter the castle and admire the impressive fortifications of the massive tower house. Next, continue on to the lovely town of Killarney—located on the shores of Lough Leane and adjacent to Killarney National Park. Enjoy lunch at a local spot among the area’s rolling green hills, lakes and forests. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is yours to become acquainted with Killarney. Opt to visit the national park for impressive views of the Irish landscape or head to Muckross House, a 19th-century Victorian mansion close to the shores of Muckross Lake. Another option for a great family visit is Ross Castle, perched in an inlet of Lake Leane. This stunning castle—steeped in legends—was likely built by the Irish chieftain O’Donoghue Mór in the 15th century.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

Dromhall Hotel Killarney (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY’S ACTIVITIES

Blarney Castle & Gardens Visit Killarney 2h30m

Visit Blarney Castle, a tower house type of fortification built by the Gaelic lords and Anglo-Irish between the 15th and 17th centuries. This unusually large tower house is made up of two towers with walls that are 18 ft thick at the base and gradually slope inwards as they rise. Enter the castle and see the chapel, banquet hall, family room, and the dungeon. Then, spend some time in the 60 acre gardens discovering nature in the Boardwalk and Water Garden, the Carnivorous Courtyard (with plants that derive some or most of their nutrients from trapping or consuming animals), the Fern and Ice House, and the Seven Sisters (a circle of nine standing stones from medieval times).

Free Time Killarney

Free afternoon in Killarney. Choose to visit the national park for sweeping views of the Irish landscape, or visit Muckross House, Ross Castle, or Lake Leane.



## Optional Activities - Day 5

Celtic Steps Dance Performance

Killarney

32.50EUR

Spend an evening immersed in Irish music and dance at the world-famous Celtic Steps show. Watch the country's best dancers, musicians and performers take to the stage with a truly unforgettable blend of traditional and modern Irish dance, accompanied by live music.

Ross Castle Tickets

Killarney

5EUR

Take a guided tour of this 15th century castle on the shores of Killarney.

Muckross House Visit

Killarney

Land at Muckross House and explore the spectacular gardens. The house was built in the 19th century for the politician Henry Arthur Herbert and his wife Mary Balfour Herbert, a painter. Queen Victoria came to visit the Muckross House in 1861, to honor her arrival the Herberts commissioned the extensive gardens that cover the grounds.

Killarney National Park Visit

Killarney National Park

Free

3h-4h

Spend some time exploring the expansive Killarney National Park, home to the only native red deer in the country. The national park is a great place to enjoy nature with hiking or biking options. Walk along the edge of the famous and scenic Killarney Lakes, or bike on the trails through the forest to seek out some of the waterfalls in the area.

Day 6

## RING OF KERRY

Set out on a full-day excursion around the famed Ring of Kerry, considered one of Ireland's most scenic drives. Take in stunning views of the Iveragh Peninsula's windswept coast and lush forests, as well as historic castles, churches and seaside villages. Partway through the drive, stop for a visit to a sheepdog farm where a local farmer will demonstrate herding and how sheepdogs respond to the direction of whistle commands. The demonstration will be followed with a question-and-answer session before the group sits down to eat a delicious lunch at a traditional local pub. Continue back along the Ring of Kerry, where you will take in stunning landscapes, such as rugged cliffs, golden beaches, peat bogs and picturesque mountain ranges. Arrive back in Killarney for dinner on your own and a night at your leisure.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

Dromhall Hotel Killarney (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle Killarney 8h 179km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ring of Kerry Day Excursion Ring of Kerry 8h

Experience Ireland's incredible natural beauty, scenic landscapes and glimpses of everyday life as we drive along the famous Ring of Kerry. Our journey starts in Killarney, home to Ireland's first national park and many historic sites. Continue to the picturesque villages of Kenmare and Sneem before reaching the coastal towns of Caherdaniel and Waterville, where Charlie Chaplin loved to holiday. Get a feel for traditional Irish culture in Ballinskelligs, where locals speak Gaelic, and Portmagee, where colourful houses line the docks and visitors set off for Skelligs Rock. Continue along the coast to Glenbeigh, "the jewel of Kerry", and stop by historic Killorglin and Beaufort before returning to Killarney.

#### ACTIVITY

Experience one of the most unusual and popular sights on the Ring of Kerry; a sheepdog demonstration! A local farmer will introduce you to his crew of sheep dogs and give a lively and

fascinating demonstration that showcases what a sheepdog looks like in action. Then, listen to a talk about how a sheepdog is used to bring sheep in on farms and watch as the dogs respond to whistle commands to guide the sheep downwards from the pastures. By the end of the demonstration all of the sheep will be calmly gathered in a pen beside the group. Take part in the question-and-answer session afterwards and then enjoy a group lunch at a local pub.

Day 7

## KILLARNEY TO LIMERICK (COUNTY CLARE)

Leave Killarney behind and travel to the iconic Bunratty Castle—the most authentic castle in Ireland. Hear how the lords and ladies of the castle lived, listen to stories of battles and bravery, and admire stunning views across the idyllic County Clare countryside. Then, visit the Folk Park at Bunratty, which features over 30 buildings in a mock living village and rural setting. Then, tuck into a delicious traditional lunch at one of Ireland’s renowned pubs. From here, continue on to Limerick, where the group will partake in an Irish Dance Experience. Learn the steps to 3 styles of Irish dancing: step dancing (Riverdance-style), sean nós Dancing (old-style) and céilí (group/social-style). A professional Irish dancer will lead the lesson and provide tips and hints on how to remember the steps. The remainder of the evening will be on your own in Limerick, where you can opt to make dinner reservations at a local spot for a traditional meal.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

Clayton Hotel Limerick (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle Killarney - Limerick 3h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Irish Dance Experience in Limerick Limerick 1h30m

Take part in a lively family activity during the Irish Dance Experience in Limerick. The workshop lasts between 60 and 90 minutes and takes place completely indoors. You and your family will learn the steps from three styles of Irish dancing. The first is Step Dancing, known as the Riverdance-style. The second is Sean Nós Dancing, or the old-style, and the third is Céilí Dancing, which is the group/social-style. Gain a deeper understanding of Irish dance, music, and culture, strengthen family relationships by learning historic dances together, and leave at the end of the day with a sense of achievement in learning a new skill.

Bunratty Castle & Folk Park Visit Bunratty 2h30m

Enjoy entrance into Bunratty Castle and spend time on your own visiting the historical grounds, known as the most complete and authentic castle in all of Ireland. The land on which Bunratty Castle has been built used to be a Viking trading camp in 970. Learn how the lords and ladies of this castle lived during times of bravery and battles, while taking in the views of the idyllic County Clare countryside.

Day 8

## LIMERICK

This morning, visit Inis Oírr (Inisheer), the smallest and most easterly of the 3 Aran Islands off the coast of County Galway. Learn about the island's rich history—dating back to the time of Saint Edna in the 5th century—and enjoy a guided tour of Inisheer. Stop to view important sites and landmarks like the Plassey Shipwreck and the 10th-century underground church of Saint Caomhán. You'll also visit Loch Mór, the only freshwater lake on the island and O'Brien's Castle, located on the high point of the island and dating back to the 14th century. Enjoy lunch before taking the ferry back to the mainland and transferring to the stunning Cliffs of Moher. Set out on a guided walk along safe, paved pathways to view these famous Cliffs that tower above the rugged west Clare coast. This evening, savor a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers at a local restaurant.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Clayton Hotel Limerick (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle Limerick - Doolin 1h30m 80km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ferry Doolin - Inisheer 15m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Inisheer Visit Inisheer 2h

Spend the morning on Inisheer, the smallest and most easterly of the three Aran Islands. Located just off the coast of County Galway this island possesses a rich history dating back to before the 5th century. Highlights of your time on the island include, the iconic Plassey Shipwreck and the 10th century underground church of Saint Caomhán.

Ferry Inisheer - Doolin 15m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Private Vehicle Doolin - Cliffs of Moher 8km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Cliffs of Moher Walk

Cliffs of Moher

2h

Wander along the paved pathways and view the famous cliffs on Europe's western frontier. Visit the award-winning visitor center nestled into the hillside like something out of Lord Of The Rings. The eco-friendly design of the center has minimal visual impact on the surrounding wild landscape. Inside there is an Interactive Exhibit, two cafes, a Heritage Craft Store, and more. The centerpiece of this space is the interpretative exhibition located in the domed roof structure of the exhibition space. Learn about the geology of the cliffs, the wildlife, and the human impacts, all sprinkled with stories about County Clare and all of Ireland.

Private Vehicle

Cliffs of Moher - Limerick

1h30m

100km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 9

## LIMERICK

Depart at any time. Departure transfers are included to the Shannon airport for outbound travel.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your Expedition Leader can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group
- Your Family Journeys Moment: Treasure Hunt Dublin, Dublin
- Your Family Journeys Moment: Sheepdog Farm Visit & Herding Demonstration, Killarney
- Arrival Transfer
- Gaelic Games activity
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- Free time in Dublin and Cork
- Departure Transfer
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Embark on a history-fueled treasure hunt through Dublin discovering the city's most fascinating sites along the way, Visit the iconic Rock of Cashel and delve into the history of the most remarkable cluster of medieval buildings in all of Ireland, Channel your inner warrior in a day of traditional Gaelic games including Gaelic football hurling and handball, Learn traditional forms of Irish dance under the guidance of a professional dancer, Marvel at the spectacle and majesty of the famed Cliffs of Moher learning about the cliff's geology folklore and wildlife on a walking tour.

## Itinerary Notes

Prices are based on double occupancy; all other room configurations are on request and cannot be guaranteed. We will accommodate triples/quads whenever possible. Please call for further details.

Family Journeys are designed for groups traveling with children between the ages of 7 and 17. Your group must include a child in order to book, and anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

## **What are the main highlights of this trip?**

Embark on a history-fueled treasure hunt through Dublin discovering the city's most fascinating sites along the way, Visit the iconic Rock of Cashel and delve into the history of the most remarkable cluster of medieval buildings in all of Ireland, Channel your inner warrior in a day of traditional Gaelic games including Gaelic football hurling and handball, Learn traditional forms of Irish dance under the guidance of a professional dancer, Marvel at the spectacle and majesty of the famed Cliffs of Moher learning about the cliff's geology folklore and wildlife on a walking tour.

## **Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?**

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**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## **Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## **Are there Itinerary notes?**

Prices are based on double occupancy; all other room configurations are on request and cannot be guaranteed. We will accommodate triples/quads whenever possible. Please call for further details.

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# What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

All parents/guardians are required to supervise their children at all times throughout the tour and may not leave their child under the supervision of the Expedition Leader, local guides, drivers, etc. Children are not to be left unattended.

Please note that on all Family Adventures one adult can only accompany up to two minors. If you have over two minors planning on travelling then a second adult will be required to attend.

## LOCAL GUIDES

It is important to note that in Europe, all guiding is based around local guides all of whom are licensed to work only in a particular city. As such, our leaders are able to provide orientation walks which will show you the layout of each town and city as well as the location of local services such as post offices and laundromats, but are unable to legally share historical facts and figures in public places.

## LUGGAGE

In Europe it is very rare to find elevators in train stations, hotels or other public places. We use public transport on this trip, which means you will need to carry your luggage from platform to platform, in and out of trains and buses etc. and also possibly up several flights of stairs. You will also need to be able to stow your luggage safely on trains and buses. It is therefore essential that you pack light and bring luggage which is compact and lightweight, and which you can easily transport. The carrying of your luggage remains your responsibility at all times.

## ACCOMMODATION NOTE:

Please be aware that properties we stay in with only two stories may not have elevators installed and climbing the stairs with your luggage will be necessary.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES NOTE:

During high season in Europe (May-October) we highly recommend booking reservations for any popular optional activities/museum tickets etc. in advance to avoid encountering sold-out activities on the ground while on tour.

Please note that if you are interested in the Butler's Chocolate Experience and/or Book of Kells as optional activities while in Dublin, then it is highly recommended you book ahead of time. Tickets can be purchased on the official websites:

<https://bookofkells.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173603695/events/428627396>

<https://butlerschocolates.digitickets.co.uk/availability/>

# What is the group leader like?

All National Geographic Family Journeys with G Adventures group trips are accompanied by two of our Expedition Leaders. The aim of the Expedition Leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense; you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

## **How large will the group be?**

Max 20.

## **What meals are included in this trip?**

8 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 1 dinner

## **What are the meals like on this trip?**

Eating is a big part of travelling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your Expedition Leader will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. The above information applies to G Adventures group trips. For Independent trips please check the itinerary for details of meals included. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

## **What are the modes of transportation on my trip?**

Private vehicle, ferry, walking.

## **What transportation will we take on this trip?**

A combination of ferries and private van/mini-buses are used on this trip.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Hotels (8nts).

## **Will I get my own room?**

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

## What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?

Rooming is based on double occupancy (2 passengers / 2 beds per room); all other room configurations are on request and cannot be guaranteed. We will try to accommodate triples/quad requests whenever possible and it's important to note that rooming configuration can change from city to city and 2 single beds are the standard configuration in a room.

Please remember that hotel/lodge standards can be different from what you are used to in your home country, which is part of the appeal of adventure travel.

On this trip you can expect to stay in small family-run hotels or pensions (with the exception of the start and finish hotels, which are often larger city hotels), which will vary a little in standard and facilities: some may not have elevators, air-conditioning or English-speaking staff, but most importantly all are locally-run, with some traditional character, and in excellent central locations to give you maximum time for exploring the sights. You can expect to find clean, safe, simple accommodation in convenient locations.

Note that most accommodation in Europe does not have air conditioning units in rooms. Air conditioning is not routinely installed in European homes and workplaces. However, nearly all hotels will provide a standing or desk fan for your room on hot nights. If you do not already have one in your room, please ask your Expedition Leader to organize one for you with reception.

## What are the joining instructions?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through National Geographic Journeys in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Our driver will be waiting for you with a National Geographic Family Journeys sign with your name on it, and they will be waiting for you outside the luggage hall. There most likely will be many signs, so please check carefully for your name.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your Expedition Leader. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your Expedition Leader and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your Expedition Leader will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

## What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your Expedition Leader (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Office London, United Kingdom

During Office hours (Weekdays, 9am-5:30pm Local Time)

+44 20 7243 9870

For absolute emergencies after office hours please contact: +441858378000

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, from calls within North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from within UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from within Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from within Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from within New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

For absolute emergencies after office hours please contact +441858378000

If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

## What information should I be aware of as the itinerary draws to a close?

On Day 9, you can depart at any time. On this day, a departure transfer to Shannon Airport (SNN) for outbound travel will be included.

If booking departure flights from Dublin Airport (DUB), please ensure you leave enough time to travel from Limerick to Dublin. Local transport e.g. Bus/Trains are very limited and infrequent. A Bus/Train from Limerick to Dublin will take a \*minimum\* of 3 hours.

## **Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?**

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage. You must be prepared to carry your luggage up and down stairs, as well as on and off transportation.

Dressing in layers is recommended as weather can change dramatically, without notice.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

## Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

### **Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

## **When can I do my laundry on this trip?**

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge or ask your Expedition Leader where the closest laundromat is. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

## **What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?**

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

For other nationalities, travelling in Europe has been simplified with the introduction of the Schengen visa. As a visitor to the Schengen area (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Italy, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) you will enjoy the many advantages of this unified visa system. Generally speaking with a Schengen visa, you may enter one Schengen country and travel freely throughout the Schengen region during the validity of your visa. There are limited border controls at Schengen borders, if any at all.

Please note that the UK and Ireland are NOT part of the Schengen agreement.

A Schengen visa is applied for at the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country in which you will be spending the most nights on your trip to the Schengen space. If you are only visiting one country on your trip then you apply for your visa at the Consulate of this Schengen country.

As of 2025, various European countries are introducing ETIAS travel authorisation as an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals.

We highly recommend you checking in advance how your nationality and country/s you are visiting may be affected. Further details can be found [here](#)

Last updated: January 27th 2025

## **What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?**

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## **What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?**

It is recommended to bring a combination of Euro (in cash), credit and debit cards.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Visa cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work - Check with your bank. You should be aware when purchasing products or services on a credit card, that a fee usually applies.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of Euros and cards is best.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

## **How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?**

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## **Should I be tipping on my trip?**

Local tipping is included on this Family trip which covers local guides, drivers and gratuity for included meals. At the end of your trip if you felt your two National Geographic Expedition Leaders did an outstanding job, tipping is expected and appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline; per Expedition Leader €8-10 per person, per day can be used.

For non-included meals in restaurant, a guideline is 5-10% of cost of bill.

# What activities are optional on this trip?

## Dublin

- Dublinia (15EUR per person)
- Butler's Chocolate Experience (17EUR per person)
- Visit to Trinity College (Book of Kells)

## Cork

- English Market (Free)
- Cork County Gaol (10EUR per person)
- Fitzgerald Park (Free)

## Killarney

- Celtic Steps Dance Performance (32.50EUR per person)
- Muckross House Visit

## Killarney

- Ross Castle Tickets (5EUR per person)

## Killarney National Park

- Killarney National Park Visit (Free)

## **Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?**

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical rating for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our Expedition Leader they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

## **What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?**

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Expedition Leader will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your Expedition Leader will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions. Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our Expedition Leaders to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s). Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. Read more about travel safety for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## **What rules should I know before joining this trip?**

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our Expedition Leaders have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your Expedition Leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

Weather can change dramatically, even in the summer months. It is best to layer clothing to ensure you are prepared for any extremes.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)\*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

## Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## How old must I be to join this trip?

Minimum age of 7 years for this trip.

## Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

# Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.