

Ireland Ag & Sightseeing Tour

June 24—July 6, 2022



Tour Highlights:

Rock of Cashel & Cahir Castle, Blarney Castle, Dairy farm of the recent President or the Irish Farmers Association, Old Jameson Distillery, Simmental & Charolais cross beef farm visit, Water Buffalo herd visit, Muckross House and Gardens, Ring of Kerry, lunch at local pub, Lemonfield Pedigree Angus Herd, Cliffs of Moher, Wild Atlantic Way, Drones Beer & Sheep Farm, Day tour of Connemara, Visit to Fernville Connemara Stud Farm, Visit to Kylemore Abbey & Gardens, Dinner & evening at Galway Greyhound Stadium, Visit to suckler cow finishing farm, Belleek Fine China Factory Tour, Walking Tour of Derry, Tour of Anne Morrison's Farm, visit to Giants Causeway, Belfast City Tour, Visit Titanic Belfast, Visit to feedlot, City Tour of Dublin featuring Trinity college, Christchurch Cathedral and the Guinness Store House, Farewell Dinner at Merry Ploughboys Traditional Irish Night.

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June 24—July 6, 2022/2023

Day 1: Depart Canada on overnight flight

Day 2: Sunday, 24 June 2022 (D)

Arrive in Dublin Airport

After clearing immigration and Customs meet your Driver Guide in the arrivals hall and depart for Cork (3hrs drive)

Visit to Rock of Cashel

A spectacular group of Medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale including the 12th century round tower, High Cross and Romanesque Chapel, 13th century Gothic cathedral, 15th century Castle and the restored Hall of the Vicars Choral.

Visit Cahir Castle

Dinner and Overnight: Carrigaline Court Hotel, Cork

Day 3: Monday, 25 June 2022 (B,D)

Morning visit to **Blarney Castle**—Climb to the ramparts of the Castle and Kiss the Blarney Stone!

Later visit the **Dairy Farm** of the recent President of the Irish Farmers Association to view his dairy farm. Over Tea or Coffee and a sandwich, discuss Irish Agriculture, EU policies and subsidies and the role of Irish Farmer in Irish society.

Visit **The Old Jameson Distillery in Middleton** to hear the story of Irish Whiskey and taste some Jameson Whiskey.

On our way back to Kinsale visit a **beef Farmer**. Like the Harbour, it borders in Crosshaven, Cork. This 450-acre farm manages to seamlessly combine the picturesque with the practical. One of the original members of the West Cork Beef Producer Group, his farm is a diverse one: 230 acres under grass, 120 acres of woodland and 100 acres of tillage and fodder beet. By breeding his own calves, he can guarantee the supply of the kind of cattle that will produce the finest quality beef. He has 100 suckler cows, all Simmental and Charolais crosses

Dinner and Overnight: Carrigaline Court Hotel, Cork

Day 4: Tuesday, 26 June 2022 (B,D)

This morning depart for Killarney

Near Macroom visit to a **Water Buffalo Herd**, the first milking herd and only of Buffalo in Ireland. He now has a herd of over 200 animals on his 150 acre farm based in Cill na Martra near Macroom in County Cork. The animals are thriving in the Irish environment. He now milks over 75 Buffalo, which are calving all year round to ensure a consistent supply of milk- making Irish Mozzarella Cheese for sale to top restaurants and food shops, only such in Ireland.

Later travel over the Cork and Kerry Mountains through the villages of Ballyvourney and Ballymakeery to Killarney

In Killarney National Park visit **Muckross House and Gardens** and rest of the afternoon free in Killarney

Dinner and Overnight: Dromhall Hotel, Killarney

Day 5: Wednesday, 27 June 2022 (B,L)

Today we tour the Iveragh Peninsula ,the Ring of Kerry, one of the most scenic drives in Ireland.

Enjoy lunch in a local Pub.

After lunch we will be meeting with a **Beef Farmer** in one of the most disadvantaged rural areas in the EU.

Hear of local history, of his extensive low input farming system, of EU subsidies and of the importance and the necessity of EU subsidies in these areas.

Ireland is a major beef exporter, consuming less than 10% of it's production, a very large portion of Irish beef is produced in disadvantaged areas. Much of it is reared in these areas and finished on better land in Midlands and East .

Overnight: Dromhall Hotel, Killarney

Day 6: Thursday, 28 June 2022 (B,D)

Depart for Galway via Adare and it's thatched cottages,

Visit nearby Lemonfield Pedigree Angus Herd

- <http://www.farmersjournal.ie/my-farming-week-donogh-mccarthy-lemonfield-crecora-co-limerick-181991>

Continue to the **Cliffs of Moher**

The **Cliffs of Moher** standing 214m (702 feet) at their highest point they stretch for 8 kilometres (5 miles) along the Atlantic coast of County Clare in the west of Ireland. From the Cliffs of Moher, on a clear day, one can see the Aran Islands and Galway Bay, as well as the Twelve Pins and the Maum Turk mountains in Connemara. You can also see Loop Head to the south, the Dingle Peninsula and Blasket Islands in Kerry. O'Brien's Tower stands near the highest point and has served as a viewing point for visitors for hundreds of years.

Travel through the Burren, an area of lunar like limestone landscape, and the **Wild Atlantic Way** to visit Droney Beef and Sheep Farm. d.

Droneys beef & sheep farm has recently achieved an excellent score in a recent Carbon Footprint survey as part of the Origin Green sustainability program for Irish food. They are also a member of Bord Bia's Beef & Lamb Quality Assurance Scheme.

90 Hectares of mostly free-draining grassland, along with some upland pasture.

200 Beef Cows, 200 Sheep and 55 beef suckler cows (mostly Charolais, Limousin and Blonde d'Aquitaine) and he also rears 50 young cattle to beef in addition to the 150 lambs which he rears during the summer months.

Dinner and Overnight: Castlecourt Hotel, Westport

Day 7: Friday, 29 June 2022 (B, D)

Day tour **Connemara**— on the west coast of Ireland, is one of the most beautiful, unspoilt places it's possible to find.

Visit to **Fernville Connemara Stud** - The Fernville Pony Stud farm is a family run business in Moycullen co. Galway.

Later carry on through the mountains, bogs and along the lakes and sea inlets of Connemara to visit **Kylemore Abbey and Gardens**.

Dinner & Overnight: Castlecourt Hotel, Westport

Day 8: Saturday, 30 June 2022 (B, D)

Depart for Derry in Northern Ireland, traveling along Lough Corrib, to visit a Suckler Cow Farmer finishing his with a Zero Grazing System. <http://www.thatsfarming.com/news/zero-grazing-finishing-cattle>

On through Counties Mayo and Sligo and crossing into Northern Ireland at Belleek

Visit **Belleek Fine China Factory**

Continue to Derry

Dinner and Overnight: Everglades Hotel, Derry

Day 9: Sunday, 01 July 2022 (B,L,D)

A local guide will take us on a walking tour of Derry

Later this morning travel along the coast to Armoy near Giants Causeway to visit Anne Morrison's Farm.

After lunch with the Morrisons - visit their farm enterprise. 100ha - mostly in the less favoured area, are farmed of which 55ha are owned. 45ha are rented under the 11 months Conacre system. EU Single Farm Payment support is a high proportion of income. The farm is also in the Countryside Management Scheme and the NI Beef Quality Initiative. Apart from a few hectares of cereals the entire farm is in grass for grazing and silage - no hay is made.

Pedigree Belgian Blue and Hereford herds are the major enterprises. A commercial suckler herd is put to Belgian Blue bulls with all calves finished and sold to meat plants supplying major supermarket chains.

The Mullaghduff Pedigree Hereford Herd was founded over 40 years ago with pedigree bulls sold to dairy and suckler herd owners.

The **Chatham Pedigree Belgian Blue Herd** was established after the UK joined the Common Market.

Embryo Transplants were used in the early years to access major Belgian Blue bloodlines available in the UK.

Later in the afternoon Visit **Giants Causeway** and continue to Belfast

Dinner and Overnight: Europa, Belfast

Day 10: Monday, 02 July 2022 (B)

This morning enjoy a Belfast City Panoramic Tour with a local guide

Built with 19th century industrial money, **Belfast** is a city rich with fine buildings and a panoramic coach tour is the ideal way to experience the highlights of the area.

Visit **Titanic Belfast**—the world's largest Titanic visitor experience, exploring the Titanic story in a fresh and insightful way. Make your way through the 9 interactive galleries of the Titanic Experience, explore the symbolism of the iconic building with The Discovery Tour, dine in Bistro 401 or browse for an exclusive gift in our Titanic Store. Walk the decks of the last remaining White Star vessel - SS Nomadic or immerse yourself in the historic Slipways as you uncover the true legend of Titanic, in the city where it all began.

Afternoon free to Explore Belfast

Suggestions:Crumlin Road Gaol, Hillsborough Castle & Gardens, Victoria Square, World Class Golf

Or Visit George Bingham's Dairy 500 Dairy farm near Belfast

Overnight: Europa Hotel Belfast

Day 11: Tuesday, 03 July 2022 (B,D)

Depart for Dublin

Visit to a **Suckler Cow Farm** just outside Belfast

<http://www.agrisearch.org/news/337-saintfield-suckler-farmer-sold-on-synchronisation>

We cross over the invisible border between Northern Ireland and the Republic to a **visit a feed lot** just south of the border.

This is a small feedlot, finishing 600-700 animals annually, which are mainly heifers for the Italian market. He produces grass and maize silage and feeds them together with large volumes of home grown wheat and barley. The unit achieves impressive weight gains and high quality carcasses.

Dinner and Overnight: Wynn's Hotel , Dublin

Day 12: Wednesday, 04 July 2022 (B)

Dublin panoramic city tour with highlights such as:

Trinity College and the Book of Kells

The Book of Kells Exhibition is a must-see on the itinerary of all visitors to Dublin. Located in the heart of Dublin City, a walk through the cobbled stones of Trinity College Dublin will bring visitors back to the 18th century, when the magnificent Old Library building was constructed and which displays the Book of Kells.

Christchurch Cathedral Dublin

Step off Dublin's busy streets and into a timeless place of prayer and praise to God. Visitors from all over Ireland and the world are welcome to experience Dublin's very own medieval cathedral, to explore its history and to enjoy quiet moments of reflection in this beautiful place. We invite you to make space in your journey for the spiritual heart of Dublin.

Guinness Store House

Located in the heart of the St. James's Gate Brewery, the Guinness Storehouse® is Ireland's most popular tourist attraction. It's the home of the Black Stuff, the heart of Dublin and an unforgettable start to your Irish adventure

The journey begins at the bottom of the world's largest pint glass and continues up through seven floors filled with interactive experiences that fuse our long brewing heritage with Ireland's rich history. At the top, you'll be rewarded with a pint of perfection in our world-famous rooftop Gravity Bar. Now that's our kind of higher education.

Rest of Day Free in Dublin

Overnight: Wynn's Hotel, Dublin

Day 13: Thursday, 05 July 2022 (B,D)

Free Day to Explore Dublin

Farewell Dinner and Irish Cabaret in **Merry Ploughboys Traditional Irish Night**

The Merry Ploughboys Live in Concert is widely regarded as the best traditional music show in Dublin and also as a must see for any visitors to Dublin city.

The show kicks off at 8.00 pm and is a highly entertaining performance of live traditional Irish Music, Song and Irish Dancing. From start to finish, this is a show based on fantastic interaction between the performers and the audience.

Overnight: Wynn's Hotel, Dublin

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Land Only Tour Pricing:

20 passengers = \$5755pp Twin Share

25 passengers = \$4899 pp Twin Share

Single Supplement: Add extra \$890.00



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