



University of Illinois
Alumni Association

 **Duration**
10 days

 **Activity Level**
Moderate

 **Journey Type**
Land



Riches of the Emerald Isle

October 4-14, 2026

Starting from \$6,245/pp

From storytelling and traditional sheepherding to thrilling Dublin, experience the best of Irish culture, traditions and food on this heartwarming 9-night adventure featuring stays in Ennis, Killarney and Dublin. Soak up history at the Dingle Peninsula and admire the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher. A journey to the unspoiled Aran Island of Inishmore offers a special treat while thoughtfully curated experiences — such as a whiskey tasting and an eve...



Day-by-Day Itinerary

Riches of the Emerald Isle

Air Program – 11 days/ 10 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land Program – 10 days/ 9 nights

Breakfasts – 9 Lunches – 6 Dinners – 4 Receptions – 2

B | L | R | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, receptions and dinners.

A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.

This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.

Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off motor coaches and boats.

- Mild – Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour
- Moderate – Walk 1–3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50–100 stairs; stand 1–2 hours
- Active – Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Shannon, Ireland. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: SNN.

Day 2 | Ennis, Ireland

R | D Old Ground Hotel

Arrive at Shannon International Airport. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer to Ennis and check in to the Old Ground Hotel. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Walking Tour of Ennis. Learn about Ennis' unique history on a walking tour through town. From tales of banshees to the famous local witch, hear how this area is steeped in legend, folklore, and mythology. You'll also learn how some of Ireland's most influential political figures were connected to Ennis. Founded in the 11th century, this lively market town has a historic yet cosmopolitan character. Discover its unique charms as you wander along winding lanes and cross over the River Fergus that flows through the middle of town. (Moderate)

Tonight, get better acquainted with your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner in the hotel.

Enrichment: Irish Music and Dance. Delight in a special Irish music and dance performance at the local Irish music institute.

Day 3 | Cliffs of Moher | Ennis

B | L | D

Old Ground Hotel

Cliffs of Moher. Spend the day admiring Ireland's countryside and coastline as you are immersed in one of the world's most unique landscapes. The Cliffs of Moher, a UNESCO Global Geopark, sit on Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way. Marvel at this stunning coastline of dramatic

cliffs, sea caves and inlets, and revel in the sweeping views of the Aran Islands and Galway Bay. The majestic Cliffs of Moher rise 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. (Moderate)

Stop for lunch in a traditional pub.

Enrichment: Irish Sheanchai. Seanchaí, Ireland's venerable storytellers, were the bearers of old Celtic lore and the caretakers of this oral tradition. Listen as Eddie Lenihan, Ireland's premier folklorist/seanchaí, relates stories and tales in the time-honored style. An author, storyteller, lecturer and broadcaster, Lenihan has been described as a "national treasure" and is well known for his tales of folk heroes, mythology and the supernatural.

Join friends for an included dinner at the hotel.

Day 4 | Aran Islands | Ennis

B | L

Old Ground Hotel

Aran Island of Inishmore (Inis Mór). From Ennis, enjoy a scenic drive and then board a ferry to sail across Galway Bay to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands. The Aran Islands' striking karst landscape is created by limestone. As you explore the island on a minibus, listen as your local guide tells entertaining stories about life on this picturesque island, where Gaelic is the first language. The area is also known for its Bronze Age stone forts. See the most famous, Dun Aengus (Dún Aonghasa). If you'd like to take the more active walk up to the fort, admire the spectacular view of the Atlantic Ocean from its clifftop location. While in the area, pause for lunch with the group before your return ferry. (Moderate)

AHI Connects | Music in Doolin. Soulful Irish music is beloved around the world. In Ireland, the village of Doolin is synonymous with music because of the number of musicians who live in the area. Visit the home of a local musician and sip a glass of wine while listening to traditional songs and musical lore.

The evening is yours to enjoy on your own. Stroll through the town and decide upon a restaurant for dinner. Afterward, you might want to pop into a pub to experience a bit of Ennis nightlife!

Day 5 | Ennis | Killarney

B | L | D

Aghadoe Heights Hotel & Spa

Depart Ennis for Killarney. En route, stop at Listowel for lunch.

Jaunting Car Ride. Hop into a traditional Irish horse-drawn carriage, a "Jaunting Car," for a ride to the 15th-century Ross Castle. These two or four-wheeled horse-drawn carts were built as a mode of personal travel in the 1800s to the mid 20th century. Your driver shares tales and lore of the area during the ride. Next, board a boat to cruise through the beautiful Lakes of Killarney. Search for the unique white-tailed eagle while admiring the passing landscapes. (Moderate)

Continue to Killarney and check in to your hotel, where you'll enjoy a delightful dinner with your fellow travelers at the on-site restaurant.

Day 6 | Ring of Kerry | Killarney

B | L Aghadoe Heights Hotel & Spa

Ring of Kerry. Located on the Iveragh Peninsula, the circular drive of the Ring of Kerry is among the most beautiful coastal drives in the world. View a pastoral region of Ireland seemingly untouched by time, where pure breezes fill your lungs and emerald knolls effortlessly melt into cerulean skies. Meet a local shepherd, who will demonstrate, with the help of loyal border collies, how to move sheep around a pasture. Afterward, there is time to ask questions about the flock, which includes rare breeds of sheep from around the world, and the dogs, as well as farm life.

Stop for lunch in Waterville and relish the wonderful views of the Atlantic Ocean as you dine. Next, drive through the villages of Caherdaniel and Sneem to Windy Gap and Ladies View, a great place to take in the vistas of the pristine Killarney Lakes. (Moderate)

Whiskey Tasting. Delight in a whiskey tasting this evening and learn about Irish whiskey production. The rules of Irish whiskey production date back to the 1880s, and all Irish whiskey must be aged in barrels for a minimum of three years. Watch a demonstration and taste the local whiskey's unique flavors. Dig into tasty appetizers and listen to music during this fun experience.

Dinner is at leisure tonight. You can enjoy fresh locally sourced seafoods, local grills, family-run restaurants and more in Killarney.

Day 7 | Dingle Peninsula | Killarney

B | L Aghadoe Heights Hotel & Spa

Dingle Peninsula. Following breakfast, depart for the picturesque Dingle Peninsula. Visit the Blasket Island Heritage Center, a facility that honors the rich heritage of the people who lived on the remote Blasket Islands until the mid-1900s and the extraordinary literary legacy they left behind. Learn about the islands' history, the life of the residents (including fishing, farming, transportation and more), and the challenges that the islanders faced. Browse interactive displays, exhibitions and audiovisual presentations. (Moderate)

Relax over lunch at a local restaurant

Free Time: Spend free time exploring the town's pubs, craft galleries, bookstores and other charming shops.

Return to Killarney. Later, venture out for dinner at leisure this evening.

Day 8 | Killarney | Dublin

B | L Fitzwilliam Hotel

Depart Killarney for Dublin following a satisfying breakfast. On the way, stop at Adare, one of Ireland's most picturesque villages. Founded in the 13th century, Adare boasts a colorful High Street and cozy, thatched-roof cottages, lively pubs, and independent shops. Savor a delicious lunch at a local restaurant.

Arrive in Dublin and check in to the Fitzwilliam Hotel.

Head out for an evening at leisure in Dublin. Stroll through the town and choose one of its many restaurants for dinner on your own. Your Travel Director can also offer dining suggestions and assist you in making reservations.

Day 9 | Dublin

B Fitzwilliam Hotel

Enrichment: Irish Literature. Ireland has produced four Nobel Prize winners in Literature, and Dublin is a UNESCO City of Literature. This evening, learn about the key figures who shaped Dublin's rich literary heritage.

Dublin Walking Tour. In this bustling and vibrant city, medieval, Georgian and Victorian architecture and lush gardens intertwine to form a captivating atmosphere. Visit historic Trinity College and see the famous hand-illuminated Book of Kells, created by monks in the eighth century. Explore St. Patrick's Cathedral, named for the Patron Saint of Ireland, and discover the fashionable shops and boutiques of Grafton Street. (Moderate)

Free Time: Spend the afternoon at leisure in Dublin. Rich with cafés, art galleries, museums, parks, gardens and cobblestone streets, Dublin offers something for everyone. For a taste of local life, sip a pint of Guinness at a pub and enjoy the "craic," Irish for "a good time." Stretch your legs in St. Stephen's Green, people-watch over an espresso at a busy street café or visit the National Gallery or the National Museum of History and Archaeology.

Head out tonight for dinner at your leisure. In Dublin, you will find a rich and diverse food culture. Many dishes pay homage to Ireland's culinary roots. You can find Michelin-starred restaurants, fish and chips and simple cafes.

Day 10 | Dublin

B | R | D Fitzwilliam Hotel

Dublin Food Tour. Discover traditional Irish flavors on a gastronomic walking tour. Sample quintessential Irish dishes and taste local finger foods during your excursion through Dublin's food scene. (Moderate)

Tonight, at a Farewell Reception and Dinner, raise your glass and toast “Sláinte” to your fellow travelers as you celebrate your Riches of the Emerald Isle adventure.

Day 11 | Depart for home city

B

After breakfast, bid farewell to new friends. AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Dublin Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.



What's Included

Program Overview

- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- 3 nights in Ennis at the first-class Old Ground Hotel.
- 3 nights in Killarney at the deluxe Aghadoe Heights Hotel & Spa.
- 3 nights in Dublin, Ireland, at the deluxe Fitzwilliam Hotel.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

On-site Features

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program with baggage handling.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.



FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

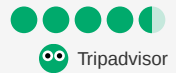
Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

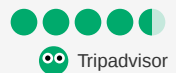
Old Ground Hotel

This former manor house blends the warmth of a country home with the style of a luxury hotel. Set in the heart of Ennis, it's convenient to area attractions such as the Cliffs of Moher. Gather in the front courtyard to observe the local bustle or chat with travel companions. The hotel features a Residents Library and three dining areas, including a traditional Irish pub. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Fitzwilliam Hotel Dublin

Located in the heart of Dublin City overlooking lovely St. Stephen's Green, the sleek Fitzwilliam Hotel Dublin boasts a central location that is close to shopping, dining and must-see attractions such as the National Gallery of Ireland and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Sit down in the welcoming Inn on the Green, which serves breakfast, lunch, dinner and afternoon tea. For a fine dining experience, head to Glovers Alley, featuring Chef Andy McFadden's creations with a light French influence.



Aghadoe Heights Hotel & Spa

Indulge in the beautiful Irish landscape at this 75-suite resort overlooking the Lakes of Killarney. Located near the stunning MacGillycuddy's Reeks Mountain range, the property offers a tranquil escape and Irish luxury. Enjoy local cuisine at the two onsite restaurants and tasty cocktails and afternoon tea at The Heights Lounge and Piano Bar. Relax in your spacious room with inviting views. During your free time, treat yourself to rejuvenating wellness treatment at the award-winning spa, a stand-alone complex with an indoor pool and fitness center.



Pricing

Trip Price (USD)	
Base Price	\$6,245
You Pay	\$6,245 per person

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is \$750.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click [here](#). Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 120+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.

