



Irish Explorer Self-Drive

Starting at **\$2,375***

Discover the unexpected

Drive west to see some of Ireland's most spectacular Atlantic coastline and enjoy two-night stays in scenic Donegal, buzzing Galway, and lively Killarney. Take in Dublin, Connemara, and the Ring of Kerry.

Trip details

Tour start
Dublin

10 ☀️
Days



Tour end
Dublin

9 🌙
Nights

14 🍴
Meals

* Prices listed are in US dollars, and are per-person, double-occupancy. If you would prefer a single room, there is a single-room supplement of \$740



Trip Highlights:

- Belleek pottery
- Blarney Castle
- Cliffs of Moher
- Slieve League Cliffs
- Blakes of Hollow Pub
- Strokestown Park
- Dublin Bus Tour
- Dublin Sightseeing
- Taylors Three Rock
- Medieval Castle Banquet

Hotels:

- Clontarf Castle Hotel
- Mill Park Hotel
- The Hardiman Hotel
- Killarney Plaza Hotel
- Herbert Park Hotel

2023 Irish Explorer Self-Drive - 10 Days/9 Nights

Trip Itinerary

Day 1 Clontarf Castle | Dublin

Pick up your Hertz rental car upon your arrival at Dublin airport. Your tour begins at the Clontarf Castle Hotel, a short drive from Dublin Airport and a few miles north of Dublin city center. Head out to discover Dublin. Take a Hop-On, Hop-Off bus tour, and see all the city's highlights with the freedom to stop off to explore further as you please. You will have a voucher to admit you to one of Dublin's top attractions: Choose from the Guinness Storehouse, a seven-story attraction telling the story of Dublin's iconic beverage, complete with a pint at the Gravity Bar on the top floor; Teeling Distillery, the first new whiskey distillery to open in Dublin in 125 years; EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, telling the story of the people who left Ireland and how they shaped the world; or the GPO Museum, innovatively detailing the fascinating story of the 1916 Rising, the pivotal event that led to Ireland's independence. Return to enjoy dinner in your hotel this evening. (D)

Day 2 Strokestown Park | Blakes of the Hollow Pub | Donegal

Drive to Roscommon to explore Irish history at Strokestown Park. Tour the National Famine Museum and Strokestown House. The grand Georgian mansion reveals the contrast between the luxurious lives of its residents and the destitution of their tenants. Stroll the park to see the walled gardens and woodlands. Next, visit Blakes of the Hollow Pub, a Victorian bar that retains many features original to its founding in 1887. Famed author John McGahern, a regular visitor, described it as "one of the happiest and most beautiful bars in the whole of Ireland". Take a photo by its official "Game of Thrones" door highlighting the series' sixth season. Continue your travels north to Donegal, where you will dine in your hotel this evening. With its windswept hills where only sheep can thrive, Donegal is renowned for woolen production and tweeds. (B, D)

Day 3 Slieve League Cliffs | Triona Design

Head to Teelin to reach the best viewing point of the Slieve League sea cliffs, the highest in Europe. Take in the incredible ocean views from these spectacular cliffs. Travel up through beautiful views of Donegal; you may want to visit Triona Design Donegal Tweed Center in Ardara, a CIE Tours preferred shopping partner, where spinners and weavers will demonstrate their crafts. Head back to your hotel in Donegal town, a busy little town that was once a Viking port. Enjoy dinner independently this evening. (B)

Day 4 Belleek Pottery | Galway

Drive to Fermanagh and discover the secrets that have made Belleek Pottery one of the most enduring success stories of Irish craftsmanship during a tour of Belleek Pottery. You'll go behind the scenes to see how this world-famous fine china is made. Travel to bustling, creative Galway for a walking tour with a local guide. Check out its medieval streetscape, its charming shops, and many cafes and restaurants. Enjoy dinner at your hotel, and explore the city's nightlife as you choose. (B, D)

Day 5 Connemara Celtic Crystal | Connemara

Explore the famed scenery of Connemara to admire how constantly changing cloud formations give granite hills, sparkling lakes, and peat bogs an added dimension. Stop at the Connemara Celtic Crystal factory in Moycullen to watch skilled artisans demonstrate fine glass-cutting. Return to Galway and enjoy an evening of independent dining and exploration. (B)

Day 6 Cliffs of Moher | Killarney

Drive through Co. Clare to visit the Cliffs of Moher, soaring 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Walk along the cliffs to see spectacular vistas, including Galway Bay and the Aran Islands, along with miles of cliffside. Make your way to the friendly town of Killarney, where you will dine in your hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 7 Ring of Kerry Drive | Killarney

Head out to the Ring of Kerry, Ireland's most famous and popular scenic drive. You might choose to stop at Moriarty's in the beautiful Gap of Dunloe, a CIE Tours preferred shopping partner. Continuing on the scenic drive, pause for panoramic mountain views at Moll's Gap. Or you might choose to explore the wonders of the Dingle Peninsula, for its spectacular seascapes and the charm of its villages. Explore Killarney tonight, as you dine independently and perhaps discover some of the town's lively pubs. (B)

Day 9 Dublin

Enjoy a relaxing day at leisure while enjoying the sights of 18th century Georgian houses with brightly painted doors, tranquil parks, and historic O'Connell Street, or you might choose to explore some of Ireland's charming seaside suburbs, like Dalkey or Malahide. You could even go further afield, by driving into the Wicklow Mountains and seeing Glendalough, the romantic ruins of a sixth-century monastery established by St Kevin, and complete with high stone crosses, a picturesque round tower, and several churches. Take this opportunity to enjoy dinner on your own as part of your Dublin exploration. (B)

Day 8 Blarney Castle | Abbey Tavern

Visit Blarney Castle, built nearly 600 years ago by one of Ireland's greatest chieftains. Climb the winding stairs to kiss the famed Blarney Stone; legend says if you do you'll be given the gift of eloquence. Explore the castle's extensive gardens, set on 60 acres of parkland. Next, head to your hotel in Dublin. Dine in the nearby seaside suburb of Howth at the Abbey Tavern, enjoying Irish cuisine and an evening of lively entertainment. (B, D)

Day 10 Your Tour Ends in Dublin

Your tour ends after breakfast. Return your rental car at the airport. (B) B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner>



Please see www.cietours.com for the most up-to-date itinerary and pricing