



Irish Legends Self-Drive

Starting at **\$2,365***

A mythic journey through the Emerald Isle

Explore hidden gems along with tried-and-true favorites on this self-drive adventure. Begin with a stay in a beautiful Georgian mansion, visit medieval Kilkenny, and ferry across Galway Bay to the picturesque Aran Islands.

Trip details

Tour start
Dublin

10 ☀️
Days



Tour end
Dublin

9 🌙
Nights

15 🍴
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 \$755



Trip Highlights:

- Irish Night at The Abbey Tavern
- Dublin Bus Tour
- Dublin Sightseeing
- Cliffs of Moher
- Aran Islands
- Cobh Heritage Centre
- Sean's Bar in Athlone
- Dunbrody Famine Ship

Hotels:

- Dunboyne Castle Hotel
- Newpark Hotel
- Killarney Towers Hotel
- Salthill Hotel
- Radisson Blu Royal Hotel - Dublin

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

Trip Itinerary

Day 1 Dublin Arrival

Pick up your rental car at the airport upon your arrival. Your tour begins at Dunboyne Castle Hotel, a Georgian mansion built in 1764, with 21 acres of gardens in historic County Meath. The local area is rich in historic activities to choose from, or just relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Dine in your hotel this evening. (D)

Day 2 Irish National Stud | Kilkenny

Head out to Kildare to visit the home of equine royalty, the Irish National Stud, where you'll see some of the world's finest thoroughbreds. Take a walk around the grounds to see St. Fiachra's Garden and the miniature Japanese Gardens. Next, travel onwards to the small city of Kilkenny. Discover its fascinating architectural heritage by taking a walk down the Medieval Mile along the city's main street; see its 13th-century cathedral and its grand castle, built by the Anglo-Normans in 1195. The evening is free for dining on your own. (B)

Day 3 House of Waterford Crystal | Dunbrody Famine Ship

Drive to Waterford, stopping at the House of Waterford Crystal, a CIE Tours preferred shopping partner; see skilled artisans create crystal masterpieces on a factory tour. Head to New Ross in County Wexford to explore the Dunbrody Famine Ship, a replica of the vessel used during the 1840s famine to transport emigrants to North America. One notable fact about the port of New Ross is that it's the port from which Patrick Kennedy, the great-grandfather of President John F. Kennedy, departed for America; JFK returned to New Ross and gave a memorable address from the quay in 1963. Return to Kilkenny to dine in your hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 4 Cobh Heritage Centre | Blarney Castle

Travel to Cobh, a charming harbor town that was the last port of call for the Titanic in 1912. Condé Nast recently named it as one of the 25 most beautiful small towns in Europe, praising "its rows of candy-colored homes along the water and towering cathedral standing sentry over the harbor." Millions of emigrants left that harbor in the 19th and 20th centuries, when it was the main point of embarkation for ships going to America. Visit the Cobh Heritage Centre to explore this fascinating history. Proceed to Blarney Castle to climb the winding staircase to kiss the famous stone and earn the legendary gift of the gab, or simply stroll through the gardens. Head on to the friendly town of Killarney, where you will dine in your hotel. (B, D)

Day 5 Killarney | Dingle Peninsula

You might choose to visit Moriarty's, a CIE Tours preferred shopping partner, in the beautiful Gap of Dunloe. Then go to discover the glorious Dingle Peninsula as you drive along the south shore to admire views of heathery mountains, sandy stretches of beach, and rocky headlands. Browse around the town of Dingle. Or you may choose to explore the Ring of Kerry, Ireland's best-known scenic drive. Dine independently this evening, and return to your hotel in Killarney. (B)

Day 6 Cliffs of Moher | Galway

Drive to the Cliffs of Moher, soaring 700 feet above churning Atlantic swells. Walk along the top of the cliffs; on a clear day you can see great views of Galway Bay and the Aran Islands. Head to Galway, where your hotel is on the promenade in the seaside suburb of Salthill; there are many lively pubs nearby or you may choose to explore the buzzing city of Galway, with its street performers, medieval buildings and charming shops. Dine in your hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 7 Aran Islands | Dun Aengus Fort

Drive through Connemara to Rossaveal, where you will leave your car and take a ferry across Galway Bay to get to Inishmore, the largest of the three Aran Islands. These austere, rocky islands are renowned for the hardy islanders who maintain traditional fishing and farming methods, and who still speak the Irish language. You might choose to hike or hire a bike at the pier to cycle to Dun Aengus, a huge Iron Age fortress perched on sheer cliffs above the Atlantic; it was described by a 19th-century archaeologist as "the most magnificent barbaric monument extant in Europe". There are a variety of tours available if you'd prefer to be driven around the island. Explore Kilronan, the island's small main village, and enjoy a casual lunch before returning by ferry, and then on back to Salthill for the evening. (B, L)

Day 9 Dublin Sightseeing

Explore Dublin on a Hop-On, Hop-Off bus tour, seeing all the city's highlights with the freedom to stop off to explore further as you please. Your Hop-On, Hop-Off bus ticket also gives you admission to the Little Museum of Dublin, an old Georgian townhouse with a fantastic collection of 5,000 objects telling the story of the city. Plus, you will have a voucher to admit you to one of Dublin's top attractions: 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 (and winner of Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction 2019); or the GPO Museum, innovatively detailing the fascinating story of the 1916 Rising, the pivotal event that led to Ireland's independence. Your evening is free to explore Dublin's many bustling pubs and restaurants as you wish.(B)

Day 8 Sean's Bar | Abbey Tavern

Head to Athlone and visit Sean's Bar for an Irish coffee. This pub has a documented history going back to 900 AD – and is featured in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest pub in Europe. During renovations in 1970, ancient walls and old coins dating back centuries were discovered. Head on to Dublin for the evening, where you will enjoy dinner and lively show of traditional entertainment at the Abbey Tavern in the seaside suburb of Howth. (B, D)

Day 10 Tour Ends in dublin

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



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