



Ireland & Northern Ireland May 2024

Travel Dates: May 21, 2024 – June 2, 2024

Tuesday, May 21

- Depart Home for Dublin, Ireland

Wednesday, May 22

- Welcome to Ireland! We'll start by getting to know the lively capital city of Dublin during a walking tour. You'll get a brief orientation to the city during a walking tour and visit the National Library and the Writers Museum. We will do a walking tour focused on James Joyce, whose short stories collected in *Dubliners* allow us to imagine life in Dublin in the early 1900s. This city has been the home of many of Ireland's most famous writers from time to times and features in some of their works. At the end of our first day, we will enjoy dinner together too.

Thursday, May 23

- Today is all about exploring Dublin, including the world-renowned institution of Trinity College, home of the Book of Kells. We'll also take a Literary Pub Tour and hear stories about the authors who have been inspired by this city.

Friday, May 24

- Our day trip out of Dublin takes us to the Wicklow Mountains, which houses the monastic site Glendalough and the medieval city of Kilkenny. After spending the day enjoying the lush natural areas, we'll return in the evening for a performance of traditional Irish music.

Saturday, May 25

- We will leave Dublin for Cork, with a stop in Cobh. This was the final departure point of the ill-fated Titanic before it headed off into the Atlantic. Once we settle in Cork, we'll

listen to a traditional Irish storyteller recount stories of Irish life long ago and allow us to gain fascinating insights into the history of Ireland.

Sunday, May 26

- We visit Galway and Blarney Castle. This historic castle is most famous for its stone, which has the traditional power of conferring eloquence on all who kiss it. The word “blarney” was introduced into the English language by Queen Elizabeth I and is described as pleasant talk, intended to deceive without offending. Perhaps some of us will leave with the gift of gab.

Monday, May 27

- The Burren and Cliffs of Moher is one of two UNESCO World Heritage Sites we’ll explore. We’ll leave from Cork for a scenic drive along this section of the Wild Atlantic Way for views of rugged coastline, windswept beaches, and old castles. An afternoon wandering these geosites is sure to inspire some writing of our own.

Tuesday, May 28

- This morning, we will return to Dublin. After a group lunch, we can explore the nearby Howth Harbor and Cliffs. Like our own St. Petersburg, Dublin is a coastal city, and we’ll venture out of the urban confines to explore its coast. Nearby Howth Harbor & Cliffs offer more than over 10 miles of hiking and walking trails with views of islands, fishing villages, medieval ruins, and the rocky coastline.

Wednesday, May 29

- We’ll leave Dublin for Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. As we take a Black Taxi Cultural & Political Tour, we’ll hear some explanation of The Troubles through stories and murals. Later on we’ll take a walking tour about C. S. Lewis, who was born in Belfast and went on to author the Narnia Chronicles.

Thursday, May 30

- The Giants’ Causeway is a stunning geological feature along the coast and has a special place in Irish folklore. Enjoy exploring this unique formation and test your courage as you cross the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, swaying nearly 100 feet over the sea as it joins the island with the mainland.

Friday, May 31

- Today we will visit the city of Derry and meet up with students and faculty from Ulster University. It's an exciting chance for some cultural exchange as we get to know students of this Northern Ireland university and trade stories of our own, and perhaps even see a few of the sites from the popular TV series *Derry Girls*.

Saturday, June 1

- Our last day will bring us back to Dublin, where we'll say farewell with dinner and a show. Abbey Theatre is the national theater of Ireland and has been operating since 1904.

Sunday, June 2

- Depart Dublin, Ireland for Home