Irish Highlights Private Tour

The Emerald Isle's Southern Gems and Castles

European Castles Tours

Experience the legendary charms of the Emerald Isle in all their incredible variety. Big cities and small villages. Castles, historic sites, and cottages. Mountains, midlands, rugged coastal cliffs, and beaches. Pubs, good food, and traditional songs and entertainment.

Travel to and from Dublin, and tour southern Ireland, with overnights in Dublin, Killarney, and Limerick.

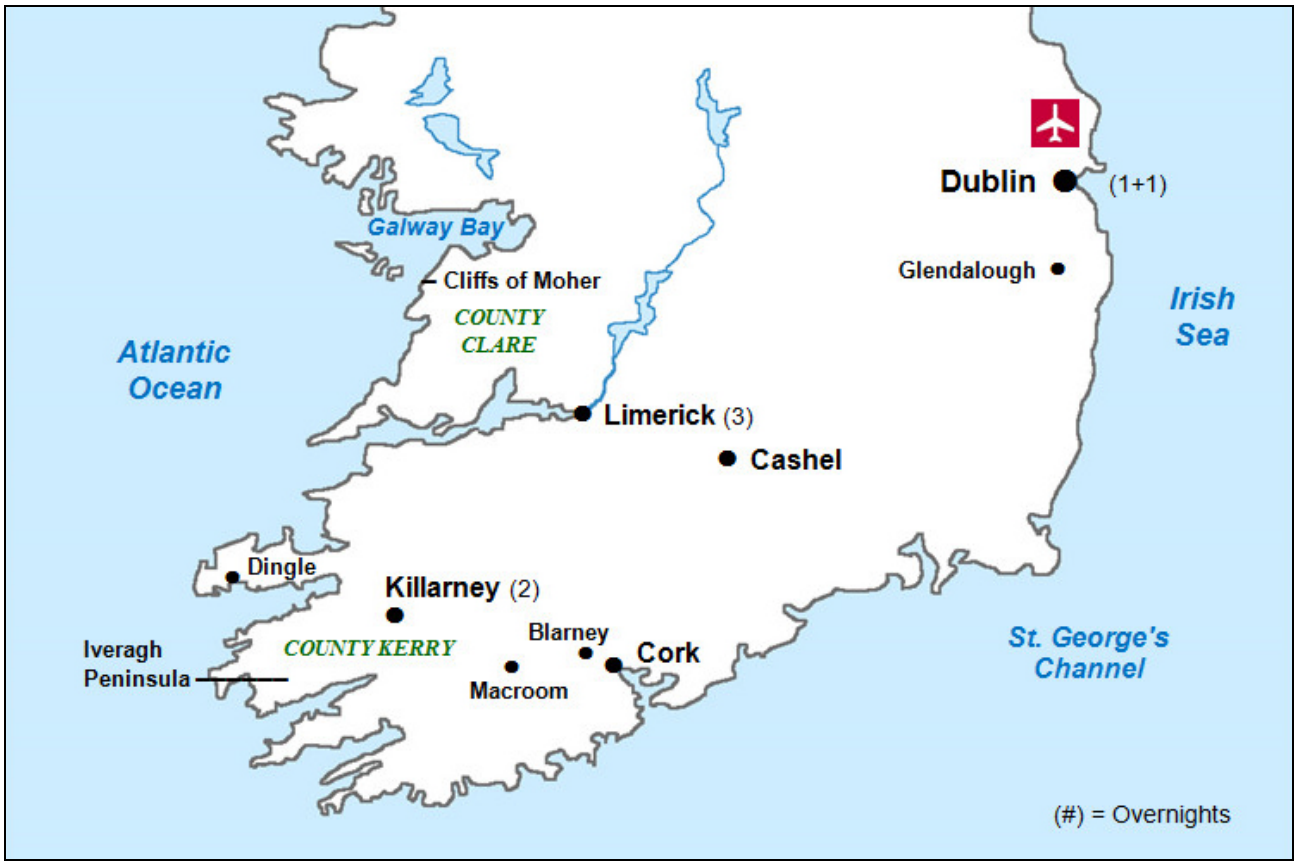
Visit Dublin Castle, the Rock of Cashel, and Blarney Castle just outside Cork. Kiss the Blarney Stone if you seek the gift of eloquence.

In County Kerry explore the cliff tops and beaches of the Iveragh Peninsula, and tour the Dingle Peninsula, described by National Geographic as "the most beautiful place on earth".

At the Cliffs of Moher, in County Clare north-west of Limerick, see the Anan Islands, Galway Bay, and Connemara, and go for a nature walk with a trained Ranger.

Return to Dublin for sightseeing, relaxation, and a chance to absorb more of Ireland's charming ambience and culture.

Map



Itinerary

Day 1 – DEPARTURE

Board your flight from home to Dublin, Ireland.

This itinerary assumes this to be an overnight flight.

Air fare independently arranged.

Day 2 – WELCOME TO DUBLIN

Arrival in Dublin Airport, Ireland.

Meet your guide at the airport for your pick up and go to your Dublin city hotel for check in. In the afternoon visit Dublin Castle. Dublin Castle was the seat of power and government for many centuries.

Dublin is one of Europe´s oldest and greatest cities, one that retains its historical and cultural charms.

From humble beginnings as a Viking trading port to a walled medieval castle city and then, in a glorious century of expansion, to an elegant Georgian metropolis with wide streets, gracious squares and great houses, neatly bordered by its two canals, Dublin will capture you heart.

Tonight enjoy a welcome drink - or sip a first pint of world famous Guinness - at a local pub hosted by your tour director followed by dinner.

> Your tour includes: Transfer from airport to hotel, three-course welcome dinner with menu choices, one beverage, and coffee or tea after, overnight in Dublin hotel

Day 3 - BLARNEY STONE AND CASTLE, KILLARNEY

Depart Dublin and travel through the midlands of Ireland, which has many mixed farms. Stop for photos of the stately ruins on the Rock of Cashel, rising high above the surrounding plain. Continue your drive south and, just a few miles outside Cork, visit Blarney Castle to kiss the famous "Stone of Eloquence".

Drive through Macroom, built around a fine castle, and into County Kerry where the scenery becomes more mountainous. Arrive in Killarney, picturesquely set beside lakes with Ireland's highest mountains, the Macgillycuddy's Reeks, forming a backdrop. Check in to your hotel and relax before dinner.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrance to Blarney Castle and Stone, three-course dinner, hotel in Killarney*

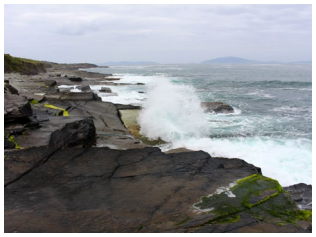
Day 4 - RING OF KERRY

Out at the very edge of Europe, on south-west Ireland's wild Atlantic seaboard, the Ring of Kerry circles the Iveragh Peninsula. The Ring is one of Ireland´s best known attractions, it's the contrast between the warmth of the people and the elemental nature of the place that makes it so special and worth slowing down to explore.

The ring will truly reveal itself as you take the time to stand wind-buffeted on cliff tops and wander on white sandy beaches.

Later visit a Brewery and sample some of the beer. Return to Killarney and dine at Kate Kearney's Cottage and watch lively music, song and dance.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrances, three-course dinner and show at Kate Kearney's Cottage, hotel in Killarney*

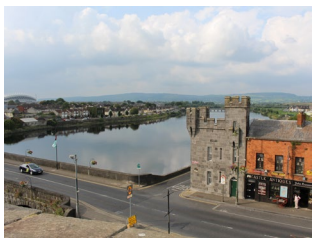
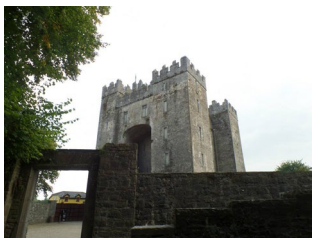


Day 5 - DINGLE PENINSULA, LIMERICK

Leave Killarney this morning and visit the Dingle Peninsula, as far west as you can go in Ireland. As once described by National Geographic as "the most beautiful place on Earth".

A place of spectacular seascapes and landscapes shaped by the elements, a place where the mountains roll into the oceans. It's here that you´ll find the real Ireland in the Peninsula's thriving and unbroken traditions of language and music, folklore and storytelling, arts, crafts and artisan foods. Dingle with its bright coloured houses is known for the best food.

Leave inspired, connected and refreshed.

Continue to Limerick, your home for the next three nights.

Check into your hotel and in the evening we have dinner at Bunratty Castle, the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland. Built in 1425, it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendor and now contains mainly 15th and 16th century furnishings, tapestries, and works of art which capture the mood of those times.

An unforgettable evening with superb food and fabulous selection of Irish medieval and traditional songs and instrumental music.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrances, dinner at Bunratty Castle, hotel in Limerick*

Day 6 - LIMERICK, KING JOHN'S CASTLE

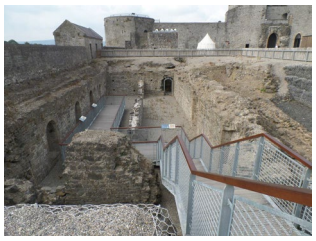
Spend the morning at King John's Castle, on "King's Island" in the heart of medieval Limerick city. The stunning new exhibition at King John's Castle brings to life over 800 years of dramatic local history.

This 13th century Castle reopened only in June 2013, following a multi-million Euro investment. Explore the brand new visitor centre with state of the art interpretive activities and exhibitions. Have Irish coffee here with terrific views onto the castle courtyard and the Shannon River.

Free time in the afternoon to enjoy Limerick on your own.

In the evening join your tour director on a pub tour with dinner.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrance to King John's Castle, three-course dinner, hotel in Limerick*



Day 7 - CLIFFS OF MOHER

Leisurely departure this morning to County Clare – a haven of wild beauty and wonderful music – to one of Ireland's top visitor attractions. The Cliffs of Moher are 700 feet high and extend for 5 miles over the Atlantic Ocean on the western seaboard of County Clare.

O'Brien's Tower stands proudly on a headland and one can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay and Connemara. The cliffs are home to major colonies of cliff nesting seabirds.

Especially for you: a guided nature walk conducted by trained Cliffs of Moher Ranger.

Return to Limerick late afternoon. Dinner tonight on your own.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrances, guided nature walk, hotel in Limerick*

Day 8 - WICKLOW MOUNTAINS, DUBLIN

Today a beautiful drive back to Dublin via Glendalough through the Dublin / Wicklow mountains, steeped in history, but also where many films were shot, including *Braveheart*. There are ancient monasteries, a round tower, ancient mixed with modern graves, and absolutely stunning vistas.

Back in Dublin, enjoy more sightseeing with your guide before checking into your hotel.

Tonight enjoy a great farewell dinner with your traveling companions.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrances, three-course dinner, hotel in Dublin*

Day 9 - RETURN

After breakfast a transfer to Dublin airport to reach your homebound flight.

> *Buffet breakfast, transfer to Airport*

Cost and Date Information

Tour includes:
- all features as per itinerary, departure guaranteed,
- 7 breakfast buffets,
- 6 three-course dinners, each including one drink and coffee or tea,
- accommodation for 7 nights in 4-star hotels,
- door-to-door transportation,
- reservation fees, entrance fees, and local guide fees, and
- the services of the Tour Director and Driver throughout the tour.

All castle visits include inside tours with experienced guides and plenty of time on your own.

There are no hidden extras.

This tour is offered on the following basis:

This private tour is offered on a **year-round** basis, apart from scheduling conflicts.

Tour prices are for the **land segment** only. Air fare is not included.

Personal expenses, lunches and gratuities for the driver and local guides are not included.

A deposit of US $ 500 per person is required to secure a reservation on these tours.

Prices shown below are examples – per adult, in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy.

Single, triple, and quadruple rooms are also available. Larger groups are possible.

A child sharing a room with two adults receives a 30% reduction.

Irish Highlights Tour Prices

# of Participants	**$ US Per Person**
2 persons (minimum)	4,699
4 persons	3,999
6 persons	3,599

Detailed **Reservation Request** instructions are provided on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

You can phone or write if you prefer. Full contact information is provided below and on the European Castles Tours website .

Final payment is due 45 days before departure.

Five weeks before departure you will receive a detailed information package with lots of travel tips and information about places we will visit.

Participation in Astrid Baur Travel tours is conditional on acceptance of the Astrid Baur Travel **Terms and Conditions** posted on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Cancellation Policy

If notice of cancellation is received more than 45 days prior to tour start, the deposit will be retained.

Otherwise:	31 to 45 days prior to tour start:	20 % of total price
	15 to 30 days prior to tour start:	35 % of total price
	8 to 14 days prior to tour start:	50 % of total price
	1 to 7 days prior to tour start:	75 % of total price
	Departure day and later:	100 % of total price

The deposit will be applied against any cancellation charge.

Contact Information

Would you like to talk to passengers from previous tours? Let us know.

We will be pleased to answer questions you may have, and very pleased to take your reservation.

European Castles Tours
Astrid Baur Travel

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