

UK & IRELAND FUN FILLED ADVENTURE



This family vacation around London the UK and Ireland is a combination of family fun, activities, sightseeing, history and culture. Making sure everyone is catered for, keeping each day fresh and full of adventure. This is generally a 4 & 5 Star Itinerary; Dinners can be included in some of the hotels, the stay on Days 11-13; can either be at Ashford Castle or the stunning Ashford Castle Lodge Hotel. Rooms will normally be Executive Kings/ Twins, but whatever your preference is. This package is better suited with Teenagers some of the activities are not suitable for younger children.

DAY 1 ARRIVE LONDON

Today on your arrival to London, you will be met in the arrivals hall by your driver, who will then transfer you to your central London Accommodation. Once you have checked-in you can then relax and enjoy free time for the rest of the day.

Hotel: 6 Nights, 1 x double, 1 x twin, inclusive of breakfast
Day is Inclusive of:

- Meet & Greet and Transfer to Central London Hotel

DAY 2 DISCOVER LONDON WITH YOUR BLUE BADGE GUIDE

Classic London Private Tour - typical Itinerary

Your guide will meet you at your central London hotel at the specified time. Then, laugh, gasp and shake your head as your Classic London Private Tour takes you through the sights, sounds and stories of one of the greatest cities in the world. For lunch, how about fish & chips in a traditional London pub?

Tower of London and Crown Jewels

Blood, Bling & Beefeaters! It's 'off with your head' as we explore the Tower of London, London's oldest building and a World Heritage site. Officially known as Her Majesty's Palace and Fortress but once described by Shakespeare

as 'The Slaughterhouse'. The original 'Tower' was built for William the Conqueror almost 1,000 years ago, and as you will see, successive monarchs added their own defences over the years (to demonstrate their popularity!). The guided tour touches on the tragic tale of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII. You will discover his cruelty knew no bounds. See the awesome Crown Jewels, king of bling! Seek out the mysterious ravens. Smile with a superb photo opportunity in front of Tower Bridge. And hear how the famous Beefeaters, also known as the Yeoman Warders, with costumes designed in Henry's reign, look after a London landmark simply drenched in history.

Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace

All the Queen's horses and all the Queen's men in the kind of pomp that only London does best. Your guide will explain this centuries-old ceremony, run through the regiments that take part, regale you with regal tales, and, as the military band marches by, bag you the best spot for photos of this popular pageant of colour. (Specific days only. Alternative attractions may be substituted such as the Royal Stables.)

Westminster Abbey

Crowning glory, focus for royal events, and one of the world's greatest churches. This private guided tour visits the place where kings and queens have been crowned for a thousand years. Your guide will take you through a gothic labyrinth where you'll discover the tombs of the legendary



royal women of the past, such as the Virgin Queen, Bloody Mary and Mary Queen of Scots. See too, the magnificent Henry VII Chapel ceiling. In more recent times, the Abbey was the venue for the royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. Prince William's grandparents, the Queen and Prince Philip, married here too, as did his great grandparents, George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. It was also the venue for the memorable funeral of Prince William's mother Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997. Something of a national mausoleum, the Abbey is also the final resting places of Newton, Darwin and Dickens. (Not Sundays. Alternative attractions may be substituted).

Churchill's War Bunker

Winston Churchill was the British Prime Minister during World War Two, and here, in his underground HQ, that terrible conflict is brought to life. This series of underground war rooms was completed just before the outbreak of war, accommodating map rooms, cipher rooms, switchboards and emergency living quarters used for the entire 1,562 nights of the war. From here, many of Churchill's great speeches were broadcast. Almost all his directives and instructions were dictated in these rooms. Room 63 was a broom cupboard disguised as lavatory where Churchill had his hotline to President Roosevelt. It was set up using a revolutionary encryption device to mask conversation with 'white noise'. A fascinating time capsule, the bunker closed down in 1945 and was not re-discovered until 1973. It also features the superb Churchill museum, featuring interactive exhibits, mementos from his life and the original door from No.10 Downing Street.

Day is Inclusive of:

- Full Day London Tour with Blue Badge Guide
- London Underground Oyster Cards
- All Entrances

DAY 3

LONDON TOP ATTRACTIONS

Today is all about entertaining the children, big and small. Armed with your Merlin Passes, you have access to four wonderful attractions and will have a fun filled day.

First start at the completely entertaining Madame Tussauds, as well as all the usual wonderful celebrities to come and see there is so much more to see and enjoy and do inside.

Marvel 4D Movie

Take a seat in our 360-degree, 4D cinema attraction, complete with high impact special effects and join a crack team of Super Heroes including Hulk, Spider-Man, Wolverine, and Iron Man in a battle against one of Marvel's most villainous baddies.

Star Wars

Created in close collaboration with Disney and Lucas film, Star Wars at Madame Tussauds is a unique, immersive experience starring extraordinarily life-like wax figures of the favourite heroes and villains of Star Wars Episodes I-VI.

The Sherlock Holmes Experience

The fascinating world of fictional detective Sherlock Holmes is brought back to Baker Street and vividly to life in a groundbreaking UK visitor attraction first.

Spirit of London Ride

Jump into one of London's iconic black cabs on our 'Spirit of London' ride - an exciting journey through the capital's history. From the comfort of your taxi, witness the historical and cultural events that have shaped London into one of the greatest cities in the world.

Next make your way over to the south bank of the Thames where three great attractions await you, The London Eye, London Sea Life and the new Shrek Experience.

At 135m, **Coca-Cola London Eye** is the world's largest cantilevered observation wheel. It was conceived and designed by Marks Barfield Architects and was launched in 2000.

It has won over 85 awards for national and international tourism, outstanding architectural quality and engineering achievement. In fact, it has become the UK's most popular paid for visitor attraction.

A remarkable feat of design and engineering, the London Eye gave London's skyline a dramatic new addition and has been offering guests a new perspective on London ever since. Originally, it was intended as a temporary structure, able to be dismantled and transported to a new location, and had planning permission for just five years. But with millions boarding it every year, its popularity has prompted its lease to be extended. Today it is a permanent fixture on the London skyline and a beautiful symbol of modern London.

Shrek - The journey begins when you board the DreamWorks Tours magical flying 4D bus to Far Far Away. There you will visit Cinderella in Shrek's swamp, bump into Puss in Boots, rescue Pinocchio from the wheel of torture and cook up a magic spell with the Muffin Man. But don't forget to collect the special ingredients that you will need in order to find Shrek and make it back home safely!

This one of a kind misadventure explores 12 laugh-out-loud fairytale themed live shows, incorporating actors, captivating storytelling, special effects and extraordinary DreamWorks animation that allows you to see, hear, touch, smell and feel the adventure, with a good dose of Donkey's cheekiness along the way.

The party doesn't stop when you leave Far Far Away. After your tour finishes, the whole family will get to venture through Madagascar, Berk and the Valley of Peace. With plenty of photo opportunities and loads of interactive games for the kids, it's the perfect end to your visit to Shrek's Adventure!

Madagascar - Join the travelling circus of Madagascar and be ready to be fired from a cannon with Marty, test your strength with Gloria and fly a plane with the mischievous penguins.

The Valley of Peace - Unleash your power in the Kung Fu Panda Training Academy and learn the art of Kung Fu by Po, the Dragon Warrior himself. Test your warrior reflexes, defy gravity with Shifu's levitating cloud and balance plates with Mr. Ping!

London Sea Life Centre

From Sharks and Penguins to Rays, Sea Turtles, Jellyfish, coral reef residents and more, SEA LIFE will take you on a magical journey beneath the waves. Every step will reveal something new as you enjoy face-to-face encounters with some of the oceans' most amazing creatures.

Begin your visit by journeying over a glass walkway that provides an incredible view into the aquarium's Pacific display. Watch as majestic ocean creatures such as Sand Tiger Sharks glide beneath your feet! Continue your journey along the world's coastlines where you will meet Sand Eels, the Common Octopus and Ocean Rays, take a stroll under the sea as you pass through their incredible glass tunnel as shoals of fish, Stingrays, Sharks and Green Sea Turtles pass above and around you, find Nemo and his friends in the colourful coral reef, and get hands-on knowledge of rockpools and the incredible animals that live in them. Don't miss getting to know the amazing creatures of the rainforest, from Piranhas and Blind Cave Fish to Poison Dart Frogs, Red-tailed Catfish and a Cuban Crocodile called Spice. Finally, travel to the frozen world of the Antarctic and discover a colony of Gentoo Penguins!

The London Dungeon

The London Dungeon is a uniquely thrilling attraction that will whisk you way back to the capital's most perilous past. See, hear, feel and (ahem!) smell the chillingly amusing characters of the 'bad old days' as they live and breathe before you. With nineteen scarily true stories and two thrilling rides, guests will come face-to-face with London's most notorious historical characters including Jack the Ripper, Sweeney Todd and Jack The Ripper. Take on London's only underground water ride as you sail to certain death down the Thames, dodge the grasp of an escaped convict from Newgate Prison and prepare for a 'hangy' ending as you plummet to your doom on the exhilarating vertical drop ride; Drop Dead. Will you lose yourself in fear or in mirth? Either way, it's not looking good for your underwear!

Day is Inclusive of:

- Merlin Multi Attraction Passes

DAY 4

OXFORD RALLY EXPERIENCE

This morning you will be picked up from the hotel at 8:30 and driven to a secret location in Oxford, where you will have the experience the most amazing fun.

Honda Pilots - very fast, very exciting

Quad Bikes - motorbikes... without the risk of falling off

Rally Karts - exhilarating stuff, only inches from the ground

Blind Driving - a real ice breaker, hilarious fun

Off road driving - test your skills to the limit

Archery - a good eye and a steady hand or possibly axe throwing

Reverse Steer Driving - totally mind-boggling

Rage buggies - this 1000cc monster can cope with any road-based horror you throw at it

All of this under the guidance of the rally experts.

Lunch can be taken in the local pub, your driver who will stay with you all day, will take you there (lunch to be paid locally). At the end of the day you return to London to relax and compare who was the best and most daring!

DAY 5

SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN LONDON

Today a chance to try something different in London, Water, Speed and Heights. First off, it is a journey up the Thames enjoying a Private Thames RIB Speedboat experience which offers one of the most fun ways in London to sightseeing ever. See every major sight from the majesty of Parliament to the strength of the Thames Barrier. All this on-board the fastest and most exciting speedboats in the capital boarding at the world famous London Eye you and your canny crew will embark upon the most memorable RIB experience of your life. Firstly get comfy on the 12.5m fibreglass Rocket and then get ready to rock out and roll on to the river that has shaped 2000 years of horribly hilarious history!

Alongside you every step of the way, your guide will be ensuring laughs are aplenty. They like nothing more than to surprise you with the most unusual stories and funniest events ever to take place along the river Thames (and most of what they say is true!). You see, as well as being top notch stand-up comics and actors, they are also secret history geeks. In short, they get a kick out of telling you the stories you weren't taught in school.

Once they've filled your head with a bit of light history, it's time for the main event. Feel the engines roar and hold on to your hair-do's as we prepare to take off! Feel the g's as we propel you at 30 knots (35mph!) down the most famous waterway in the world - the river Thames! Twist and turn past Canary Wharf and onto maritime Greenwich. Our trademark Thames Rockets tunes will keep you dancing in your seats.

Once past Greenwich enjoy the vista of the Thames Barrier loom into view and marvel at the 8th wonder of the world. Close your eyes, catch your breath and adjust your hair. You're about to turn around and do it all again.

Unquestionably suitable for anyone who knows what is good for them. This is a 40 minute London speedboat experience of pure adrenaline fuelled fun at 30 knots.

As you get close to the O2 the boat will drop you off, close to your next experience of the day. As you have a little time, you can go for a coffee or lunch.

Up the O2

Get ready for a breathtaking new attraction, combining an exhilarating active outdoor challenge with a completely unique perspective on the Capital. Prepare yourself for an unforgettable 90 minute experience which will take you on an uplifting expedition across the roof of the world's most popular entertainment venue. Enjoy spectacular 360 degree views of London from our viewing platform in the centre of the roof, before finishing with a thrilling descent back to base to complete your adventure.

After your climb up the O2, you can if you wish take a quick round trip on the Virgin Cable Car, or make your way to Jubilee Underground just a few minutes away, and take the train back to central London, it is a good line that can take you right to Westminster.

Finish this exciting day by heading to the Westend this evening and watching one of London's fantastic family shows.

After your experience of walking up the O2, make your way across to the Virgin Cable Cars, buy your tickets and take a car across to the otherside, here you will find a driver waiting for you, they will then take you to The Queen Elizabeth Orbital Park, here you have a couple of final adrenaline rides.

A 40 second descent in world's tallest and longest tunnel Slide as well as experiencing breathtaking views of London from two observation platforms, Anish Kapoor's famous concave mirrors, innovative touch screens and the sounds of the city as you descend the 455 stairs.

After your sliding, the driver will take you back to London, where you can change and get ready for the theatre in the evening.

Day is Inclusive of:

- Thames Rib Experience
- Up the O2 Experience
- Arcelor Experience
- 4 x Theatre Tickets - We Will Rock You

DAY 6

FREE DAY

For your final day in London and after such a full on itinerary so far, a free day to relax and possible shop is called for.

DAY 7

LONDON TO BATH, VIA THE COTSWOLDS

A leisurely drive today awaits; as after checking out of your hotel you head across the country to the Roman City of Bath. Your route will be through the picturesque and unspoilt villages of The Cotswolds. Lunch at one of the many traditional pubs will be a real treat.

The Cotswolds covers a huge area - almost 800 square miles - and runs through five counties (Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Worcestershire). One of the delights of visiting the Cotswolds is exploring the different areas, each with its own identity, yet all with those defining Cotswold features: golden stone and rolling hills, the 'wolds'.

Explore quintessentially English villages of honey-coloured stone; take in splendid, lively market towns; visit some of the country's greatest palaces, castles and country houses; marvel at the natural world in acclaimed reserves and at some of the most famous arboretas in Britain; walk through breath-taking landscapes along historic trails; or make a splash in our lake-land area with its own inland beach.

Hotel: 2 nights; 1 x double - 1 x twin, inclusive of breakfast

DAY 8

STONEHENGE

Today starts early, as you are collected from the hotel while it is still dark, to reach Stonehenge, where you will enter the Inner Circle and watch the sunrise at 06:15, over the mystical stone circle, that always begs the question; How? (If Early Morning Inner Circle is not possible, then a standard entry mid-morning visit will happen)

After your visit to the mythical stone circle head off to the smallest city in the UK, The Medieval City Wells.

Wells is the smallest city in England with about 12,000 inhabitants. It can call itself a city because of the famous 13th century Cathedral. It remains remarkably unspoilt and has many other historic buildings including the moated Bishop's Palace, Vicars' Close, St Cuthbert's Church and a good local museum. The Wells Market Place, with lively markets twice a week, the narrow streets and an eclectic mix of building styles all reflect on the continuing development of the town throughout the ages.

You will return to Bath early afternoon, where the rest of the day is free for you to relax.

Day is Inclusive of:

- Private Tour to Stonehenge and Wells

DAY 9

MORNING FREE IN BATH - FLIGHT TO DUBLIN

You won't have to look far to find things to do in Bath as the city is famously full of attractions and activities. In many ways, Bath hasn't changed much since the times of Georgian gentleman Ralph Allen and writer Jane Austen, both of whom fell under the spell of this city built for pleasure.

Take a tour through time and explore the only UK city designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll travel centuries in just a few steps. Visit the Roman Baths dating back to AD43 to see how our former settlers liked to unwind. Wander through the pages of one of Austen's classic novels as you stroll past mellow architectural masterpieces like the Royal Crescent and The Circus, or celebrate Bath's most famous resident at the Jane Austen Centre. Bath is also the ideal base for exploring nearby sites like the photogenic village of Lacock and Stonehenge's mysterious megaliths.

The impeccable heritage is just part of the story. Bath is a lively, thriving city where ancient history and Georgian elegance sit comfortably alongside a decidedly twenty-first century cosmopolitan buzz. Eat out in hundreds of restaurants and cafés serving everything from Michelin-starred gourmet dishes to simple, satisfying street food. Unwind in chic cocktail bars and welcoming traditional pubs, then dip into a rich entertainment scene that embraces comedy, live music and theatre. And if that isn't enough, there's also a year-round programme of special events and festivals.

It goes without saying that no trip to Bath is complete without taking the waters. Relax and unwind in natural hot springs that have been a magnet to visitors for millennia. Visit Thermae Bath Spa for revitalising treatments, healing steam rooms and awesome 360-degree Bath views from the rooftop pool. Or treat yourself to a spa stay at the five-star Gainsborough Bath Spa, a luxurious hotel with its own naturally heated spa complex.

And if it's retail therapy you're after, you've come to the right place. Bath is a shopping superstar, boasting an unbeatable choice of independent retailers selling tempting one-of-a-kind items (plus, of course, the full complement of major high street names).

After you check out of the hotel your driver will then transfer you to Bristol Airport, to catch your flight to the Island of Ireland and the city of Dublin.

On arrival to Dublin you will be once again met in the arrivals hall and transferred to your central Dublin hotel, where you can check in and relax for the remainder of the day.

Hotel: 2 nights, 1 x double, 1 x twin, inclusive of breakfast
Day is Inclusive of:

- Transfer to Bristol Airport
- Meet & Greet and Transfer to Dublin Hotel

DAY 10 DUBLIN PRIVATE TOUR

Relive a thousand years of Dublin's history from a Viking trading port to a medieval walled city with two cathedrals to the elegance of Dublin's Georgian development that made Dublin the 2nd city of The British Empire. Then the decay that lead Ireland to becoming the second country after The United States to gain independence from The British empire through force of arms.

- Trinity College (Book of Kells)
- St Michans Church
- The Georgian Squares
- The Phoenix Park
- Dublin Castle
- St Patricks Cathedral
- Kilmainham Gaol
- Guinness Brewery/Storehouse
- Christchurch Cathedral

DAY 11 DUBLIN TO CONG

Today you depart Dublin and travel west across Ireland to County Galway, and another truly magnificent and historic hotel. Enroute you will have a stop at Birr Castle.

The Award-Winning Gardens of Birr Castle Gardens and Science Centre in Ireland are both rich in amazing feats of science and engineering as well as rare trees and flowers, wonderful wildlife, and walks along peaceful rivers and the lake. The Parsons family invite you to explore one of the most extraordinary places in Ireland. Created over generations it is an environmental and scientific time capsule.

Birr Castle is a very impressive 90 room castle situated on a 1200 acre walled estate in the Magical Midlands of Ireland. The castle is only open to the public on a limited basis throughout the summer as it still the family home of Lord & Lady Rosse, descendants of the Parsons family been there since 1620. Each generation of this famous family has made huge and important contributions to science and technology. The 3rd Earl of Rosse built the largest telescope in the world in 1840, with which he discovered the Whirlpool Nebula and devised a method of calculating the heat of the moon's surface, which proved to be amazingly accurate. His son invented the steam turbine, which as we all know changed the course of history not only in Ireland but throughout the world. The telescope, which held the record of being the largest in the world for 70 years has since been fully restored, thanks to the patronage of the late Dr Tony Ryan.

Next you head to Lisloughrey Pier on Lough Corrib for a 2 hour Lough and Island Cruise, which departs at 3pm, the drive takes about 2 hours to reach, but the scenery you pass all tells a story of the history of the region and Ireland, leaving Birr around midday you will have time for lunch at one of the villages you pass through, your guide will certainly know the best and most traditional to stop at. Take A Cruise to Inchagoill Island From Lisloughrey Pier This is a two hour cruise which includes a 40 minute visit to Inchagoill Island, the most famous island on Lough Corrib. After leaving Lisloughrey Pier from where passenger steamers once operated the cruise travels out across the lake towards Inchagoill Island.

This cruise arrives at Inchagoill at approx 3:30pm for a 40 minute visit. While on the island passengers are taken on a guided tour of St. Patrick's 5th Century Monastic site. Historic points of interest include:

St. Patricks Church (5th Century)

The stone of Lugna

(470AD: Gravestone of St. Patricks navigator)

The Church of the Saints

(Built in 1180AD by the Augustinian Monks of Cong)

The burial tomb of Muirgeas O'Nioc

(Archbishop of Tuam in 1128AD)

After the guided tour, passengers board the "Isle Of Inisfree" to return to Lisloughrey

Once you are back on dry land, you take the short drive to your hotel, where you can then check in and relax for the evening.

Day is Inclusive of:

- Driver/Guide Full Day
- Entrance to Birr Castle
- Loch Corrib Cruise

DAY 12 DAY OF ACTIVITIES

Ashford Castle has an array of activities to enjoy, which we have booked for you.

- **9 Holes of Golf** - Golf Clubs and Balls Included.

This beautiful nine-hole, 2996-yard, par-35 parkland course provides the perfect environment for golfers of all ages to hone their skills. The course was designed by the renowned Irish golf architect Eddie Hackett and was created with imaginative integration of natural features and hazards, ensuring a marvellous contribution to the tough par 3's, exciting par 4's and formidable par 5 (bring your own golf shoes).

- **Private Hawk Walk** - On arrival, you are greeted by your Falconry Instructor and introduced to your hawks, before setting off to fly your hawks. As you fly the hawks, your falconer will explain all about the hawks' eyesight, their speed and agility and also about the character and history of the individual hawks that you are flying. As you walk through the beautiful woodlands, your hawks will closely follow you, flying from tree to tree, before swooping down to land back on your gloved fist... a moment you will never forget!
- **Family Archery** - The Ashford Archery Academy set in the magnificent woodland of the estate provides a magical location to experience this ancient sport played by kings and lords for centuries. With a large array of targets to choose from including FITA regulation targets,



3-dimensional wild animal targets and drop-down targets, your session is a dynamic, fun-filled experience. All the family can participate as long as the participants are as tall as the bow.

- **Something for the kids** - Zipline Adventure Course Join us for a memorable aerial adventure set in magnificent mature woodland on the Ashford Estate. This is a unique opportunity to engage in an exhilarating experience surrounded by natural beauty. Your journey will take you through trees such as beech, oak, monterey pine, Scots pine and European fir trees. The course is made up of a series of tree-fixed platforms linked by zip-lines. There are five zip-lines throughout the course combined to total 300 metres. It's a magnificent way to hang out in the tree tops come rain or shine! The course takes approximately one hour including a safety briefing and the session. It also depends on how speedy you are, how busy the course is and who you've got in your group. Before you start the course, you'll be given a safety briefing by one of our qualified experienced instructors and fitted in a secure harness safety system. A continuous Belay Safety System keeps participants safely attached so they can focus on zipping through the forest!
- **Adults Only** - The Wine Cellars at Ashford Castle offer private wine tastings and wonderful wine dinners in the secret passageways of the castle, which were unearthed during recent renovations. The old servants' entrance was originally a coal bunker and walkway underneath the castle, where the servants used to come in and get their coal buckets to take up to the rooms. It has now been transformed and the 16th Century tunnels provide three unique private spaces with a cosy ambience and soft lighting and using a Coravin system for tasting expensive bottles without having to take the cork out, keeping the wine fresh for longer. The extensive wine list has been carefully selected by our knowledgeable sommelier, where you can sample a fine selection of vintages and a choice of new and old world wines in a remarkable setting.

Day is Inclusive of...

- Any Activities you choose. Must be pre-booked
- Private Wine Tasting Experience - Adults only

DAY 13

CONNEMARA EXCURSION TO GALWAY

Today see the hidden Ireland off the main tourist track this tour is a must with the first stop at Ross Errilly Friary- a hidden but atmospheric 14th century monastery before entering Cong Village. This is where you have time to explore Cong Woods not far from Ashford Castle. You will stroll the town famous for being the location for the 1950s classic movie, 'The Quiet Man'- (Starred John Wayne) or simply have a coffee on the edge of Lough Corrib- the largest lake in the Republic of Ireland.

Entering Connemara on the Lough Nafooye route allows you to see the stark beauty of the hidden valleys of Connemara. Killary Fiord and the village of Leenane make for a beautiful photostop. The tour then continues to Kylemore Abbey where you can break for lunch and sightseeing for 2 Hours. Leaving Kylemore late afternoon you drive through the Inagh Valley, Maam Cross & Oughterard and complete the circuit of Lough Corrib before arriving in Galway for the evening.

Hotel: 1 night, 1 x double, 1 x twin, inclusive of dinner and breakfast

Day is Inclusive of:

- Driver/Guide Full Day

DAY 14

GALWAY TO ADARE

Cliffs and Castles, are the order of the day. Once you depart Galway City, you start following The Wild Atlantic Way.

The Cliffs of Moher make for a dramatic vista thanks to a sheer 600 foot vertical drop into the sea. The cliffs are made up of mudstone and sandstone, which helps create the ambience you'll experience since the mudstone is softer and erodes which creates beautiful ledges on the side of the cliffs that seabirds habitat and breed on. The Cliffs of Moher are one of the most important sea bird colonies in Europe and you'll likely see many birds flying around while visiting, including the possibility of puffins.

For a small €2 fee, you can go up in O'Brien Tower located near the cliffs and which is just a short walk from the visitor center. The tower was built by Cornelius O'Brien, a local landowner in the 19th century who was the person that originally had the vision to bring tourism to the Irish Mid-west and specifically the Cliffs of Moher. From the top of the tower, you can see all the way to Newfoundland on a clear day.

Bunratty Castle is the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland. When visiting, you can tour the main castle plus its historic Folk Park, which is a recreation of what a village in the area would have been like in the 19th century. It is seriously cool as you feel like you've been transported back in time to a full village complete with homes and businesses. Bunratty is a great spot for families to visit; adults will appreciate the history and attention to detail while kids will enjoy the exploration factor of all the different buildings to visit plus live animals onsite.

While touring Bunratty Castle you'll learn about the home life of earls in Mid-west Ireland in the 15th century, like that the ceiling has a vent above the "central heating" fireplace and how the stone walls absorbed the heat and spread it all through the room. Much more complicated than turning a knob on a thermostat - good thing Ireland doesn't get to 20 below zero on a regular basis like the Midwest winters I remember growing up with in Minnesota.

The bedrooms are also interesting to see, particularly the beds, which are covered in a 500 year old bedspread and a nightgown that would have been worn in the era. The beds didn't have springs, just ropes. At night the ropes would have to be tightened so people didn't fall down the middle of the bed. This is where the term "sleep tight" comes from. Once you leave the main castle, there's even more fun to be had as you explore the Folk Park and see how people who weren't earls lived back in the 1800s.

The grounds of Bunratty Folk Park are also simply pleasurable to walk around on thanks to meandering trails by cute Medieval-style buildings and lots of trees.

Hotel: 2 nights, 1 x double, 1 x twin, inclusive of breakfast

Day is Inclusive of...

- Driver/Guide Full day
- Entrance to Cliffs of Moher
- Entrances to Bunratty Castle

DAY 15

RING OF KERRY

Once again head out with your driver/guide after breakfast and experience some more fantastic attractions and scenery that makes Ireland such a stunning and memorable place to visit.

The Ring of Kerry: Rugged islands, white-sand beaches, dramatic mountain passes and a royal goat – the Ring of Kerry works its magic as you travel from rugged coastline to charming villages and buzzing towns. You can do it all in a day, but our advice? Go slow, savor the sights, get off the beaten track, and see what has made this driving route one of the most popular on the island of Ireland.

A place for lunch can be chosen with your guide, who will know the best authentic establishment for you to enjoy.

DAY 16

IRELAND TO LONDON

Sadly today is departure day from Ireland, you driver will arrive at the hotel in plenty of time to transfer you to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

Hotel: 1 night, 1 x double, 1 x twin, inclusive of breakfast.

Day is Inclusive of:

- Driver and Transfer to Shannon Airport
- Transfer from Airport to London Hotel near Airport

DAY 17

DEPARTURE DAY

As your flight is not until late in the afternoon, we have requested a late check-out which is subject to availability. Our suggestion is that Spencer and Emerson can take a couple of the bikes and explore the estate should they wish while Greg and Karen can be booked in for a little Spa time before their driver arrives to take them on the short journey to London Heathrow.

