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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

9 Day Capturing Castles In Ireland



CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS DATES – 7-10 DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival Ireland: US – Dublin – Castle Leslie

Upon arrival in Dublin, meet your private Professional Liaison in the arrival hall for a VIP escort through customs and forward to baggage claim where you will meet your private driver who will transfer you to your Castle Accommodations.



Drive to Castle Leslie, this Castle Hotel in County Monaghan is nestled on 1,000 acres of undulating Irish countryside, dotted with ancient woodland and glittering lakes, Castle Leslie Estate Monaghan is one of the last great Irish Castle estates still in the hands of its founding family.

The lodge is the social hub of the estate, offering authentic original interiors and old style hospitality and is a complete respite from the world. The Victorian treatment rooms, based in the lodge, will leave you feeling refreshed and revitalised. With seven

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treatment rooms, a relaxation area and hot tubs overlooking the stables, it's the perfect place to ease your weary muscles after taking part in one of the many activities available on the Estate.

Since the 1660s, the distinguished and somewhat individual Leslie family has lived on the Castle Estate. Now you too can experience some of the most unique and enchanting castle accommodation in Ireland.

The Castle, at the heart of the Estate, offers authentic original interiors and old-style hospitality and is a complete respite from the world.

Upon arrival at the Castle, you will check-in and get settled.

The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax or explore the property on your own.

Dinner tonight is on your own at the castle.

Day 2 Ireland: **Castle Leslie – County Antrim**

Breakfast in the Castle.

After a full Irish Breakfast, You will meet your private driver & professional local guide in the lobby for your exciting tour of the Glens of Antrim.

The Glens of Antrim, known locally as simply The Glens, is a region of County Antrim, Northern Ireland. It comprises nine glens, that radiate from the Antrim Plateau to the coast.

From the County Antrim town of Larne, rugged cliffs stretch north for 80 miles, broken only by nine deep green glens, each with its own unique character.

First stop, Ballygally, where, no surprise in a land steeped in legend, the hotel is reputed to have a (friendly) ghost.

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Winding on past spectacular scenery, solve the mystery of the beech maze at **Carnfunnock Country Park**. Splash down at the beaches of Ballygally, Glenarm, Carnlough, Cushendall or Cushendun. The Glenarm Estate is certainly worth viewing on its open days. Not far inland is **Slemish Mountain**, where St. Patrick tended sheep as a young slave.

You will have a picnic lunch from the Castle that you will enjoy today en-route. Loads of snacks, too for a day exploring the glens makes one hungry.

The coast road becomes even more tortuous, but the views of Scotland are worth it. Glenariff, Queen of the Glens, is fairest of them all with the wild beauty of its waterfalls and trail skirting a sheer plunging gorge, within Glenariff Forest Park.

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Cushendall, capital of the Glens, is a lively centre of music, dance and craic. Next stop is Cushendun, a National Trust Preserved village, famed for its Cornish cottages.

Dare you venture further? Whichever route you take, thrills await. White-knuckle cliff road skirting remote Fair Head, or inland to Ballycastle across the mysterious 'vanishing lake'; a watery grave to coach and horses way back when.

The Glens are equally famous for their festivals, exemplified by the Heart of the Glens festival at Cushendall in August, where everyone sings and dances from morning to night, and vice-versa. Not to be outdone, Glenarm, Carnlough and Cushendun have festival weeks in July.



The Glens Translated

The names of the Glens evoke their history and features - below is the meanings of each of the glens:

- Glenarm - *glen of the army*
- Glencloy - *glen of the dykes*
- Glenariff - *glen of the plough*
- Glenballyemon - *Edwardstown Glen*
- Glanaan - *glen of the little fords*
- Glencorp - *glen of the dead*
- Glendun - *brown glen*
- Glenshesk - *glen of the sedges (reeds)*
- Glentaisie - *after Taisie, princess of Rathlin Island*

A visit to the nine glens is a must-see on your list!

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After your tour you will be returned to the Castle where you are a leisure for the remainder of the evening.

Dinner is on your own at the Castle.

Day 3 Ireland: **Castle Leslie – Belfast**

Breakfast in the Castle.

After a full Irish Breakfast, You will meet your private driver & professional local guide in the lobby for your exciting tour of Belfast city.

Belfast is Northern Ireland's capital. It was the birthplace of the RMS Titanic, which famously struck an iceberg and sunk in 1912.

This legacy is recalled in the renovated dockyards' Titanic Quarter, which includes the Titanic Belfast, an aluminium-clad museum reminiscent of a ship's hull, as well as shipbuilder Harland & Wolff's Drawing Offices and the Titanic Slipways, which now host open-air concerts.

Titanic Tour.



subsequent place in history.

First you will experience Titanic Belfast.

Titanic Belfast, named the World's Leading Tourist Attraction at the prestigious World Travel Awards in 2016, is located beside the Titanic Slipways, the Harland and Wolff Drawing Offices and Hamilton Graving Dock, the very place where Titanic was designed, built and launched in 1912.

Titanic Belfast tells the story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to its maiden voyage and

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The self-guided Titanic Experience extends over nine interpretive and interactive galleries, which explore the sights, sounds, smells and stories of RMS Titanic, as well as the city and people who made her.

After your experience, your guide will take you on a tour of the other Titanic sites and experiences in this area.



The Titanic Memorial Garden commemorates the 1,512 people who perished on RMS Titanic in 1912.

Located on the east side of Belfast City Hall, the garden is set on two levels with the upper level containing a nine metre long plinth, inscribed with the names of those who died on RMS Titanic and a lower grassed terrace surrounding the existing monument.

The garden's memorial plinth supports fifteen bronze plaques which list, in alphabetical order, the names of 1,512 people who perished on RMS Titanic.

When the plaques were being designed, it was believed that a complete list of names was already in existence, however this was not the case.

Eight well-known Belfast-made ships are represented by spectacular sculptured masts that line the east side of Donegall Place.

The Masts.

Donegall Place, Belfast City Centre

Titanic, her sister ships Olympic and Britannic, and Nomadic are among eight famous Belfast made ships represented by spectacular sculptured masts that line the east side of Donegall Place in the heart of Belfast. Each mast carries a sail which celebrates Belfast's maritime heritage.

The Kit

Abercorn Basin, Titanic Quarter

The innovative genius that lay behind the building of Titanic is celebrated in this spectacular see-through 13.5 metre tall bronze structure. A giant modelling kit - using

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scale replicas of Titanic's component parts - recreates the legendary liner beside the Abercorn Basin, near where the real ship was built. The £200,000 piece was inspired by the plastic frames of the Airfix model kits. At night it lights up Titanic Quarter with blue and white phosphorous lighting.

RMS Titanic's tender ship and the last remaining White Star Line vessel has been restored to her original glory.

Walk the decks, explore the ship, and take journey through over 100 years of authentic maritime and social history.

SS Nomadic is most famous for the part she played in the Titanic story when she ferried first and second class passengers to Titanic from Cherbourg, but this was only the beginning of her extraordinary journey that stretches over 100 years. Restored to her original 1911 glory and back home in Belfast where she was designed and built, a visit to SS Nomadic and Hamilton Dock combines the authentic heritage and atmosphere of this historic ship with the intriguing stories of her passengers and the ups and downs of her dramatic career.

Stretched over four decks a visit to Nomadic allows you to experience first-hand what it was like to be a passenger boarding Titanic on her fateful maiden voyage, to marvel at the intricate details and the contrasts between the separated class areas on board.

Behind Titanic Belfast you can walk along the historic slipways where Titanic and Olympic were built and launched over 100 years ago.

See where Titanic first touched the water back in 1911. The Slipways have since been restored and now play host to a variety of open air concerts and events.

Titanic Belfast stands at the head of the historic slipways where Titanic and Olympic were built and from where these famous ships were first launched into the water. Walk down the very slipway where Titanic was constructed and explore a life size plan of Titanic's Promenade Deck which is inlaid in white stone.

Discover the positions of the liner's lifeboats and funnels and have a seat at one of the benches positioned exactly as they would have been on board the deck of Titanic.

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Lunch is on your own today.

Have a pint in Belfast's oldest traditional pub – Kelly's Cellars Located in Bank St, Kelly's Cellars is one of Belfast's oldest traditional Irish pub, situated in the heart of the city.

Described as “a hidden gem that oozes old traditional values”, it is famous for a pint of Guinness, served with homemade Irish beef stew. Built in 1720, Kelly's Cellars has changed very little in 200 years and still has most of its original features. Undoubtedly one of the best things to do in Belfast.

After lunch you will have a tour of the highlights of Belfast.



Visit Belfast City Hall. This is a stunning Edwardian civic building in the centre of the city which was built during the early part of the 20th century.

Take a tour around the beautifully decorated interior and learn about its history or walk in the gardens to discover the Titanic memorial and art work and statues linked to everyone from Queen Victoria to President Clinton.

If you are ready for a cuppa, there's even a café, the Bobbin Coffee Shop.

Visit St. Anne's Cathedral with its maze like floor, the iconic Crown Liquor Saloon, The Botanic Gardens,



Drive by the Great Walls of Belfast -“The Peace Wals” Another bizarre yet interesting part of this city is the fact that there are massive walls separating communities.

It is hard to believe that in a modern European city in the 21st century that such walls exist. However,

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it is planned to take down these walls in the next 20 years so you should see them before they go!)



Murals of The Troubles: You can't escape the fact that Belfast is a divided city.

There are peace walls and security gates dividing staunch Catholic and Protestant areas with political murals across the most loyally defended parts of the city.

There is nothing quite like this anywhere else in Europe and taking a bus or walking tour to see and hear about the background to the artworks is an absolute must.



Visit Stormont – The Northern Irish Parliament Buildings

Stormont is often seen on the TV in news reports about Northern Ireland and you would think it is way out of the city in the countryside because of the surrounding green. However, this building is just 15 minutes from the city centre, set in parkland, and enjoys imposing views across Belfast to the Black Mountain and Belfast Hills.



Explore Belfast Castle.

Belfast Castle is set on the slopes of Cavehill Country Park, Belfast, Northern Ireland in a prominent position 400 feet above sea level. Its location provides unobstructed views of the city of Belfast and Belfast Lough.

There is a lovely outdoor cafe where you can enjoy a coffee and cake whilst taking in the phenomenal beauty!

After your tour, you will enjoy dinner in one of Belfast's wonderful restaurants (TBD).

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After Dinner, you will continue your evening with a traditional Irish Pub Crawl. The Belfast Pub Crawl. It wouldn't be right to visit Belfast and leave out the best pubs Belfast has to offer, and why not do them all in one night!?

To experience a traditional Irish night in Belfast then look no further than this. We have put together a pub crawl with some of the best traditional pubs

where you can drink the best Guinness while listening to traditional music!

Our suggested pub crawl would consist of Lavery's, The Crown Bar, Robinsons, Maddens, Kelly's Cellars, Whites Tavern, McHughs, The Harp Bar, The Duke of York, The Dirty Onion.

When you are ready, your driver will return you to Castle Leslie.



Day 4 Ireland: Castle Leslie – Ashford Castle

Breakfast in the Castle.

After a full Irish Breakfast, you will be at leisure this morning to relax in the hotel or explore the grounds on your own.

Lunch is on your own in the hotel.

After lunch, meet your private driver & professional

local guide in the lobby to depart Castle Leslie, have a scenic en-route tour and arrive at Ashford Castle.

Ireland's grandest castle hotel, with a history going back to the early 13th century, Ashford is set in 350 acres of beautiful parkland. Grandeur, formality and tranquility are the essential characteristics, first seen in immaculately maintained grounds and, once

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inside, in a succession of impressive public rooms that illustrate a long and proud history - paneled walls, oil paintings, suits of armour and magnificent fireplaces.

The castle has over 80 bedrooms and three restaurants: The Connaught Room, which is mainly for residents, is the jewel in Ashford Castle's culinary crown and one of Ireland's most impressive restaurants; at present it is only occasionally open; the larger George V Dining Room also offers fine dining; Cullen's Cottage, in the grounds, offers accessible all-day informal dining. In addition The Library and Drawing Room menus offer informal meals including Afternoon Tea.

Upon arrival at the castle you will check-in and settle a bit.

In the mid afternoon, you will enjoy high tea in the Library or the Drawing Room with all of it's finery and spectacular presentation.

You are at leisure until evening when you have a reservation at **George V Dining Room at 8:30pm for Dinner**.

After dinner you are at leisure to relax in the hotel or explore the property on your own.

Day 5 Ireland: Ashford Castle

Breakfast in the Castle.

After Breakfast, you will meet your private driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the Castle for a tour of Kylemore Abbey & the greater Connemara region.



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Touring from Ashford, learn about the Irish Bodhran, the Irish drum in Roundstone and visit the Duc de Stacpoole at the Roundstone Art Gallery. Killary Harbour, a glacial fjord, can be explored on a local cruise.

Kylemore Abbey, a Benedictine school, is awesomely beautiful and has a recently restored Victorian garden.



Clifden, the capital of Connemara is known for its tweeds. Be sure to follow the Sky Road into Clifden, and if you have time visit some of the coral beaches out towards Roundstone.



You will stop for lunch in Clifden or Roundstone. Your guide will advise en-route.

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After lunch you will continue to Letterfrack is home to Connemara National Park. Letterfrack Woodwork & Furniture College is located in the village where students design innovative and quality handcrafted furniture.

Next you will enjoy a private cruise on a very stable 36ft motor catarmaran to some of the deserted islands.



After your cruise, you will visit Connemara is the area of Western Galway & South Mayo bounded by the Atlantic & Lough Corrib. It is an area beloved by artists & poets who find magical inspiration in its wide open bogs & its towering cloud capped mountains. Cottages nestle into hillsides where wild looking sheep with thick fleeces & great curling horns freely graze. The rugged coastline is punctuated with little fishing villages.

You will be returned to Ashford Castle at the end of the tour. You will be at leisure for the remainder of the evening.

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Dinner is on your own in the castle.

Day 6 Ireland: Ashford Castle – Cliffs of Mohr – The Burren – Adair Castle

Breakfast in the Castle.

After Breakfast, check out of the castle and meet your private driver & professional local guide in the lobby of the Castle for a tour of the Cliffs of Mohr & The Burren on the way to Adare Castle.

Your first stop is the Cliffs of Moher.



The Cliffs of Moher, - a sheer precipice 8 km long and rising to a height of 203m, one of the most impressive stretches of the coast in the West of Ireland, remarkable especially at nesting seasons for the quantity and variety of seabirds there.

Lisdoonvarna is a spa town with an excellent salmon smoke house. September was, and still is, the peak month of the matchmaking season here and with the harvest safely in bachelors farmers flock to Lisdoonvarna in search of wives.

The Spa Well also continues to attract the crowds. The Doolin Craft Gallery as well as selling treasures from all around Ireland is also worth visiting for its scrumptious food and stunning gardens - a plantsman's paradise.

Lunch is on your own today en-route.

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After lunch, you will visit a very special area of Ireland. The Burren - Words simply cannot do justice to this eerie, peculiar 193-square mile area of ancient seabed that suffered glacial activity during its long history.

The Burren, is a bare lunar like landscape of a limestone plateau dotted with stone age forts and megalithic tombs.

In the narrow crevices that criss-cross this pavement flourish orchids, gentians and other rare flora, an amazing mix of arctic, alpine, temperate, and tropical vegetation growing side by side. Twenty-two varieties of orchids thrive here, nourished by underground rivers and rich soil.



Today we see treeless meadows of limestone karst that forms natural pavement interspersed with lush flora. Scholars of history can scour the Burren for tombs, chambers, and dolmens (two stones that support a horizontal slab), traces of Stone Age inhabitants.

To the north the Burren is bounded by Galway Bay with the fishing port of Ballyvaughan, a noted centre for oysters, while to the west the Aran Islands stand

out against the broad expanse of the Atlantic Ocean.

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Arrive at Adair Manor and check into your hotel.

Dinner is on your own at the Castle this evening.

Day 7 Ireland: Adair Castle

Breakfast in the Castle.

After Breakfast, 10:00AM: 12:00PM: Within the Estate, you can select one of the experiences to begin your day -

falconry, archery, boating, Irish Gun Dog Experience, game shooting, horse riding, walking and mountain biking. (Not yet included in your package but we can add the specific event if you want to pre-arrange these experiences – any event costs not prearranged will be applied to your after check-in portfolio)



12:00PM: Lunch in the restaurant, a picnic on the grounds or you may opt for a light snack at the Drawing Room. (Lunch is on your own today.)

1:30 PM: Meet your private driver in the lobby of the hotel for your afternoon tour of Adare. Continue on to visit the village of Adare



2:00PM: Adare Desmond Castle

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- The Desmond Castle is located on the edge of the village of Adare.

The castle was erected with an ancient ring-fort around the early part of the 13th century. It became a strategic fortress during the following turbulent years. It was the property of the Earls of Kildare for nearly 300 years until the rebellion in 1536, when it was forfeited and granted to the Earls of Desmond who gave the castle its present name.



3:00PM: Tour of Adare, a small town in County Limerick, Ireland, located south-west of the city of Limerick. Renowned as one of Ireland's prettiest towns, Adare is designated as a heritage town by the Irish government.

- **Do some shopping** in Adare for many types of authentic Irish items.



5:30PM: Enjoy a beverage and or Dinner at Pat Collins Bar It is a family business located in the heart of the village of Adare, Ireland's prettiest village. Come, sit and relax over a pint of Guinness and a plate of home made Irish Stew. The bar is famous for its good pint and delicious Irish home made dishes. All meals are prepared using fresh local produce and served with home made brown bread.



- There is an extensive bar menu with a wide range of Irish and international dishes for all appetites. Some of our daily specials include Traditional Irish Stew and Fresh Smoked Salmon.
- Meals range from lunches to dinner with the option of finger food available for groups.
- All produce is bought fresh from local markets. Ask a member of staff for the source of all meats and vegetables.

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- All meat is 100% Irish and supplied by Costelloe Butchers, Adare. Ice cream is supplied by Adare Farm Foods.
- Ask a member of staff for the daily specials

7:00PM: Return to the Castle.

8:00 PM: Dinner is on your own tonight. We would suggest the Oak Room unless you chose to stay in town for dinner. The Sommelier will make recommendations for wine pairings with your meal. (not included in your package - cost will be applied to your after check-in portfolio).

9:30PM: Enjoy a beverage in the Tac Room and enjoy the music or find a quiet corner in Drawing Room to enjoy an after dinner beverage (not included in package - cost will be applied to your after check-in portfolio).

Day 8 Ireland: Adair Castle

Breakfast in the Castle.

After Breakfast, 9:00AM: Meet your private driver in the lobby of your hotel for your half day Tour. Today you will visit several of the main attractions in Limerick on your private city tour.

9:15AM: King John's Castle

- Welcome to 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 on Friday June 28th 2013, following a multi million euro investment. Explore the brand new visitor centre with state of the art interpretive activities and exhibitions. 21st century touch screen technology, 3D models and discovery drawer are among the exciting techniques that will connect you to tales of siege and warfare.
- In the busy courtyard, you will discover a medieval campaign tent, a blacksmiths forge and scenes from a seventeenth century siege. The sights, scenes and



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sounds of King John's Castle and its environs all combine to recreate the atmosphere of the era.

- Relax afterwards in our café – the perfect place to unwind while enjoying terrific views onto the castle courtyard and the Shannon river.

11:30AM: Take a walk on the 3 Bridges Walking Route

- The Three Bridges Slí na Sláinte is a 3.6km walk beginning at Arthur's Quay Park and following a stunning route along the banks of the River Shannon and passing some of Limerick's most iconic landmarks.



Lunch in Limerick on your own today.

2:00PM: You will be returned to your hotel.

Within the Estate, you can select any of the experiences to enjoy for the rest of the day - falconry, archery, boating, Irish Gun Dog Experience, game shooting, horse riding, walking and mountain biking. (Not yet included in your package but we can add the specific event if you want to pre-arrange these experiences – any event costs not prearranged will be applied to your after check-in portfolio)

8:00 PM: Dinner in the Oak Room. The Sommelier will make recommendations for wine pairings with your meal. (not included in your package - cost will be applied to your after check-in portfolio).

9:30PM: Enjoy a beverage in the Tac Room and enjoy the music or find a quiet corner in Drawing Room to enjoy an after dinner beverage (not included in package - cost will be applied to your after check-in portfolio).

Day 9 Ireland: Adair Castle – Airport – US & Home

Breakfast in the Castle.

After Breakfast, checkout of the castle and meet your private driver in the lobby for your transfer to the airport where you will meet your international flight for the US & Home.

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End of Services.

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548

Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!